EDUCATION WORKS
SUCCESSES IN MISSISSIPPI, 2013-2017

Dr. Laurie Smith
EDUCATION / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICY ADVISOR
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT
How Did We Do It?

Education Works Agenda

• The Vision:
  • Promotion Policies for Student Success
  • Quality Teachers and Leaders for Every Student
  • Early Childhood Education
  • School Choices for Mississippi Students
  • College and Career Readiness Standards for All Students
How Did We Do It?

Literacy Based Promotion

• The **Literacy Based Promotion Act**—“Third Grade Gate”

• Focus on 3rd Grade: from “Learning to Read” to “Reading to Learn”

• Kindergarten entry assessment, screening 3 times per year with parent involvement every year through 3rd grade.

• Use of **reading assessment** to determine promotion to fourth grade

• Reading Coaches to assist low-performing schools **strengthen core reading instruction**

• Re-training of all K-3 teachers on the Science of teaching Reading
Critics Blast ‘Third-Grade Gate’
Jackson Free Press

“JPS could have to retain up to 40 percent of the district's 2,100 third-graders.”

“Cats and Dogs. Living together. MASS Hysteria!”
- Bill Murray, Ghostbuster

More than 5,000 Mississippi third-graders could be held back this year for low reading scores.

Hechinger report

As Mississippi delivers bad news to 5,600 third graders, stressed-out parents say there must be a better way

MISS. THIRD-GRADE GATE:
FEAR OF FAILURE
Clarion Ledger
How Did We Do It?: Literacy Based Promotion

MISSISSIPPI FOURTH GRADE NAEP READING SCORES

YEAR 3RD GRADE GATE WAS IMPLEMENTED
How Did We Do It?
Literacy Based Promotion

Welcome to the 4th Grade

92%

3RD GRADE GATE
Education Works:
What We’ve Accomplished

4TH GRADE READING
6 POINT INCREASE

4TH GRADE MATH
3 POINT INCREASE

92% of 2016-2017 3rd Graders Achieved a Passing Score on 3rd Grade Reading Assessment
MISSISSIPPI IS THE ONLY STATE TO DEMONSTRATE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN 2015 NAEP
How Did We Do It?

Early Childhood Education
How Did We Do It?

Early Childhood Education

• Early Learning Collaboratives

• National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) recognized Mississippi’s Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs) for meeting all 10 quality standards for early childhood education, making Mississippi one of only five states in the nation that meet all 10 benchmarks.

• 10 ELCs throughout the state that serve more than 1,700 children. The number of ELCs will increase to 14 for 2017-18.
Achieving, Demonstrating, and Sustaining High-Quality Early Care and Learning in Mississippi

MDHS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
School Choice

• Charter Schools
  • In C, D, or F Districts.
  • Preference to underserved students in the recruitment process and the enrollment process.

• Special Needs Education Savings Account (ESA)
  • 425 students (100 on waiting list).
  • 98 percent of respondents expressed satisfaction with the school or educational program they chose for their child using an ESA.
How Did We Do It?

Additional Innovations and Successes

- Graduation rate - all-time high of 82.3%
- 11th grade students earned an overall composite score of 18.3 on the ACT in 2016, an increase from 17.6 in 2015 - gains in English, Math, Reading, and Science.
- Created a clear A through F rating system for Mississippi’s schools.
- Raised the standards for becoming a teacher
- Mississippi is fourth in the U.S. in the percentage of teachers who are Board Certified.
How Did We Do It?
How Longitudinal Data Informed / Drove the Initiative

- lifetracks.ms.gov
- State Longitudinal Data System
- Complete Data on Pre-K-12, Higher Learning, Community Colleges, Human Services, Workforce, etc.
Education and Workforce: Mississippi Works

www.mississippiworks.org
Education and Workforce:
WIOA Smart Start / Middle-Skill Employment
Questions?