

The steering committee recognized that statewide educational improvements will require a united front of state policy makers and public schools, in partnership with the higher education community. *Building Opportunity in Mississippi through Higher Education* called for the establishment of an education coordinating body that will improve the alignment of policies and practices across educational sectors. Toward that end, the Institutions of Higher Learning, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, and the State Board of Education have already been working to formalize coordinating efforts.

The report also calls for accountability through the creation of a Mississippi Education Progress Board, which will annually assess efforts in Mississippi educational improvement. The primary purpose of the Education Progress Board is to assess the efforts of Mississippi in educational improvements. This board will help hold other accountable for progress.