

Mississippi Leadership Summit on Higher Education Priorities

All of Mississippi's children and their families, along with educators, business persons, professionals, the media, and communities, will understand and embrace the value of education and training, both for their own personal accomplishment, and to develop a more robust state economy.

- Community involvement and public relations instruments will be implemented in Priority Schools
- School-to-Careers Office coordinates schools and business to emphasize career awareness, academic achievement and workforce development
- Occupational Diploma Program prepares students with disabilities to be productive members of the workforce

All of Mississippi's children will start school ready to learn.

- MDE will publish and train on a three- and four-year old comprehensive pre-kindergarten curriculum
- Operate a Head Start Collaborative Office designed to ensure that public schools blend services with Head Start Centers
- Provide regional training on early childhood care best practices and research based techniques

Mississippi will substantially boost the quality of teaching and learning in all elementary and secondary schools to better prepare more graduates who are ready to compete in the new economy.

- Teacher preparation via professional development focusing on content and pedagogy
- Regular professional development offerings in all subject areas
- Enhanced teacher quality and student learning by strategies using collaborative work such as curriculum mapping, peer coaching study teams, and student intervention teams
- A system of assessment and accountability has been established for the school community to ensure a strong foundation for any student exiting public school
- Vocational Student Organizations (VSOs) and the Tech Prep Initiative support and enhance the education curriculum

Mississippi will increase high school graduation rates and college participation and graduation rates at all colleges and universities.

- Addressing dropout prevention and seeking to improve graduation rates through early intervention and preparation through an aligned state curriculum and assessment system
- Student achievement and growth is assessed at all grade clusters in the core subject areas; benchmark grades are established and intervention teams prescribe strategies to assist students in academic performance
- Working with LEAs to provide all disabled students with education and training to prepare them for increased post-school employment opportunities

Mississippi will increase participation in adult lifelong learning, worker training, and professional development activities.

- Academic Education and Vocational collaborations – Tech Prep, CHOICES, vocational courses in high school
- MDE's Office of Vocational and Technical Education works to increase adult life-long learning, worker-training and professional development activities by establishing partnerships with business and industry

Mississippi will increase its support for university-based research and development, and the higher education community will redouble its effort to address state and community economic needs, and to prepare students for careers in the new economy.

- The use of scientifically-based programs in math and reading is being addressed to meet the requirements of NCLB
- Work collaboratively with the Mississippi Economic Council
- Pre-service programs for educator licensure
- A strong counseling component is part of the foundation of the Mississippi Tech Prep Initiative