



LOWNDES COUNTY
School District
CALDERON • NEW HOPE • WEST LOWNDES • CARLETON RICH

DROPOUT PREVENTION PLAN

School Year 2023-2024

Reviewed/Revised August 2023

Mr. Sam Allison, Superintendent

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Verification of Board Presentation and Approval

On behalf of the Lowndes County School District, I hereby submit a local Dropout Prevention Plan to provide goals, activities and services necessary to meet the following overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan: 1) Reducing the retention rate; 2) Targeting Subgroups and Graduation Requirement; 3) Academic Successes; 4) Recovery Initiatives and 5) Transitions from Juvenile Detention Centers.

I hereby certify that the information contained in this plan follows the appropriate federal and state laws and regulations.

I hereby certify that our school district will cooperate in carrying out any evaluation conducted by or for the Mississippi Department of Education.

I hereby certify that our school district will submit reports as requested by the Mississippi Department of Education.

I hereby certify that our school district has considered relevant, scientifically based research, strategies and best practices indicating services most effective in preventing dropouts if we focus on students in the primary grades.

I hereby certify that our school district will prepare and submit an annual progress report on increasing the graduation rate, decreasing the dropout rate and reducing the truancy rate.

I hereby certify that our school district will endorse and implement the effective strategies to promote a reduction in the dropout rate.

I hereby certify that our school district has based the dropout prevention plan on scientifically based research, best practices and all laws in determining strategies to reduce the dropout rate for students with disabilities under IDEA.

I hereby certify that our school district will evaluate our district dropout prevention plan on an annual basis to determine appropriate changes needed for future school years.

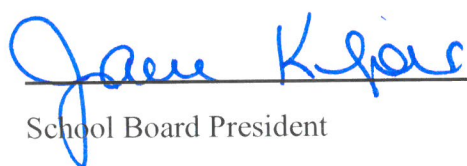
I hereby certify that our District School Board has reviewed and approved this plan for the submission to the Mississippi Department of Education.



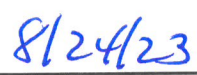
Superintendent



Date



School Board President



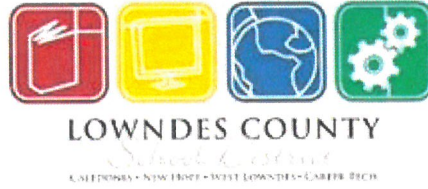
Date

DISTRICT TEAM MEMBERS

Mr. Sam Allison	Superintendent
Mrs. Stefanie Jones	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Gregory Elliott	Principal, Caledonia High School
Ms. Aimee Musselwhite	Counselor, Caledonia High School
Mrs. Megan Ruffin	RtI Coordinator, New Hope High School
Ms. Wanda Rush	Counselor, West Lowndes High School

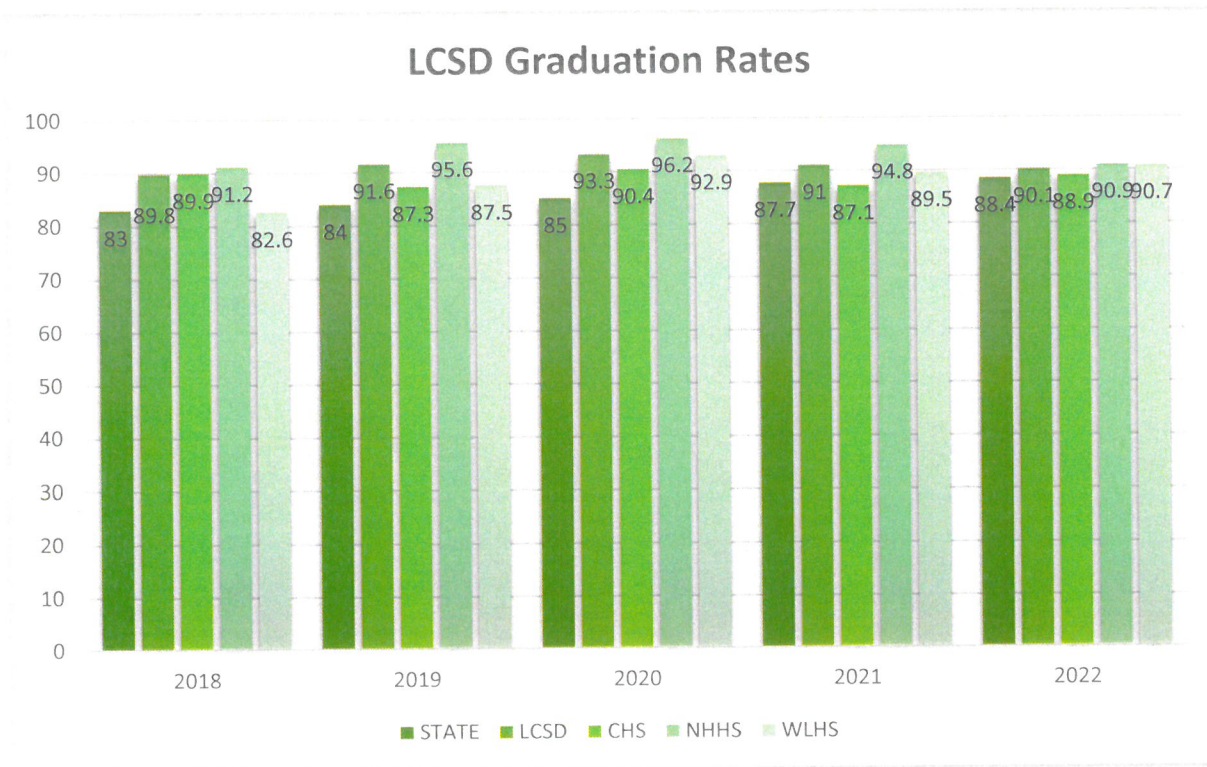
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Mr. Sam Allison	Superintendent
Mrs. Stefanie Jones	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Matt Keith	Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Kristie Jones	Federal Programs Director
Dr. Rhonda Locke	Special Education Director
Mr. Roger Hill	Principal, Caledonia Elementary
Mrs. Jeannie Jernigan	Principal, Caledonia Middle
Mr. Gregory Elliott	Principal, Caledonia High School
Mrs. Angela Wilcox	Principal, New Hope Elementary
Mr. Eric Guerrero	Principal, New Hope Middle
Mr. Matt Smith	Principal, New Hope High School
Mr. Robert Sanders	Principal, West Lowndes Elementary
Mr. Antonio Magee	Principal, West Lowndes High School
Mrs. Susan McClelland	Career and Technical Center Director
Dr. Aaron Lee	Alternative School Director



LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION RATES

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
LCSD	91.8	90.9	93.3	91.0	90.1
CHS	87.9	85.6	90.4	87.1	88.9
NHHS	95.6	93.7	96.2	94.8	90.9
WLH	87.5	92.9	92.9	89.5	90.7



Based on information gathered from the District Data and Needs Assessment Outcomes, the following short-term goals have been established:

- To increase the percentage of students scoring PL3 or above on the MAAP by 2%-5% and increasing the percentage of students' growth rates in The Growth for All and the Lowest Performing categories by monitoring/intervening/remediating the bottom 25% on identified deficiencies
- To decrease the number of students failing a grade by 2% over the next 3 years through early detection and the MTSS Process in each district school
- To increase parental involvement by 5% through continuing to utilize the district's parental involvement policy
- To increase the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) at each school by 2% over the next 3 years by monitoring attendance, implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, and implementing student attendance incentives
- To increase the district graduation rate to 93% (CHS 91.9%, NHHS 93.9%, WLH 93.7%) by implementing the Dropout Prevention Plan

Based on information gathered from the District Drop-out Prevention Team, District Data, and Needs Assessment Outcomes, the following long-term goals have been established:

- To increase the graduation rate by 5% over the next 5 years by implementing the dropout prevention plan and the district's 5-year strategic plan
- To decrease the dropout rate by 25% over the next 5 years by implementing the dropout prevention plan and the district's 5-year strategic plan
- To decrease the district's truancy rate by 25% over the next five years by monitoring the monthly ADA and improving reading and math proficiency through academic intervention programs

Current District Initiatives:

Systematic Renewal-

- Universal Screening- early prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment program
- Class size reduction
- Extended School Year/Intersession
- Teacher Support Team Interventions
- State Assessments
- STAR Reading, Math and Early Literacy
- Title I
- Classroom guidance
- PBIS
- IEP/504
- Compensatory classes
- Instructional Technology Coach
- Block Scheduling
- Centrally Located Career Tech
- Schoology
- 1:1 Learning Initiative

School- Community Collaboration-

- Partnerships with EMCC and MUW
- Junior Auxiliary
- Community Counseling
- United Way
- Home-School Collaboration
- MDE Attendance Officers

Safe Learning Environments-

- Classroom management plans and training
- Schoolwide security
- Rules and policies (handbooks) taught and reinforced
- Character Education
- PBIS
- SEL Standards and curriculum

Family Engagement-

- School Web pages
- Schoology
- Open Houses
- Parent Coordinators (Title I)
- Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO)
- Teacher Conference days
- AIMS 3.0
- Social Media

Mentoring/Tutoring-

- Title I in-school tutors and Academic Coaches
- Community and school counselors
- Teacher Support Team
- Extended School Year/Intersession
- After school tutoring
- PAPER online tutoring

Service Learning-

- Character Education
- United Way
- SEL Curriculum and Standards
- Volunteering
- Fundraisers
- BETA Club and National Honor Society

Alternative Schooling-

- Alternative school
- Homebound
- In School Suspension/Out of School Suspension
- Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment

After School Opportunities-

- Tutoring
- Summer School/Extended School Year
- Athletics
- PAPER online tutoring

Professional Development-

- Professional Learning Communities
- Staff Development on Wednesday afternoons
- Teacher Mentoring program

Active Learning-

- Computers and internet-based programs
- Field Trips
- Student organizations
- Physical education

Individualized Instruction-

- Weekly lesson plans
- IEP/504 Plans
- MTSS Process
- Differentiated instruction
- ELS assessments

Proposed District Initiatives:

- Web based and interactive educational technology
- Universal screening in all grades
- Five Year Strategic Plan
- Provide alternative options for students wishing to dropout

Evaluating Effectiveness:

- MAAP Assessment data
- Universal Screening Data
- Graduation and Dropout Rate Data
- Title I Schoolwide programs and surveys
- Teacher Mentor Program
- Dropout Prevention Taskforce

Strategies for reducing the retention rates in grades Kindergarten, First and Second:

- Provide early literacy instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics and language
- Provide instruction and frequently assess fluency and comprehension
- Provide evidence-based interventions to struggling readers
- Ongoing communication with parent or guardian of struggling student
- Reinforce the target standards in Kindergarten that are required for promotion (Student Handbook)
- Increase the number of Title I Pre-K Classrooms in our elementary schools
- Professional Development in differentiation for lower elementary teachers
- Extended school year/Summer Program for at risk students/Intersession
- Transition classes

Strategies for targeting subgroups that need additional assistance to meet graduation requirements:

- Student and parent conferences
- EL Language Service Plans
- IEP and 504 Plans
- Educate elementary and middle school teachers on long term effects of first- and second-year retentions
- Increase student, teacher, and parent awareness of GPA and classes that count as a Carnegie unit
- Increase ACT and WorkKeys classes and staff
- School attendance committees will meet regularly to identify students with excessive absences; meet with parents and students to determine cause and plan for future
- Educate EL population on completion options after compensatory age

Strategies for developing dropout recovery initiatives that focus on students age seventeen to twenty-one, who dropped out of school:

- Alternative School placement
- Review Credit recovery options before Dropout
- Offer December completion, early graduation and graduation options
- Offer CTC programs and diploma options

Strategies for addressing how students will transition to the home school district from the juvenile detention center:

- Initial and follow up meetings with counselors and behavior coach
- Ensure that a Behavior Intervention Plan is in place and being followed
- Alternative school as a soft transition, if needed
- Review ISP and revise plan to graduate