

# **PONTOTOC COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## **DROPOUT PREVENTION PLAN 2022-2023**

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## **Statement of Assurance**

On behalf of the Pontotoc County School District, I hereby submit a local Dropout Prevention Plan to provide goals, activities and services necessary to meet the overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan.

I hereby certify that the information contained in this plan is in compliance with 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 consulted with parents, community partners, business partners, teachers, school staff, building administrators, and others in the development of this local dropout prevention plan.

I hereby certify that our school district has taken into account relevant, scientifically based research, strategies and best practices indicating services most effective in preventing dropouts if we focused on students in the earliest grades.

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

I hereby certify that our school district will endorse and implement the Fifteen (15) 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 submission to the Mississippi Department of Education.

**Dropout Prevention Team Leader:**

Name: Jimmy Flake Title: Curriculum Coordinator

Mailing Address: 354 Center Ridge Drive, Pontotoc, MS 38863

Telephone #: 662-489-3932 Fax #: 662-488-2940



8/5/2022

## Dropout Prevention Assurances Page

On behalf of Pontotoc County School District, I hereby submit the Dropout Prevention/Restructuring Plan to provide goals, activities, and services necessary to meet the overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan:

- Reducing the retention rates in grades kindergarten, first and second.
- Targeting subgroups that need additional assistance to meet graduation requirements.
- Developing dropout recovery initiatives that focus on students aged seventeen (17) through twenty-one (21), who dropped out of school (i.e., Mississippi Works).
- Addressing how students will transition to the home school district from the juvenile detention centers.

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 submission to the Mississippi Department of Education.

**District Superintendent:**

**Dr. Brock Puckett**



**8/9/22**

**School Board Chair:**

**Mr. Allen Roye**



**8/9/22**

## 2021-2022 District Data Form

District Name: Pontotoc County School District

Graduation Rate: 83.3%

Dropout Rate: 11.56%

School Data High	Elementary	Middle	
Number of Schools	3	2	2
Cumulative Enrollment	1766	668	955
Counselor/ Student Ratio	1:588	1:334	1:478
Student Demographic Data	Number		
Female	864	317	465
Male	902	351	490
Asian	6	4	4
Black	172	64	76
Hispanic	218	73	114
Native American	1	0	0
White	1310	513	748
Two or More	59	14	13

**2021-2022 District Data Form (continued)**

Demographic Data- Certified Staff							
	Elementary			Middle		High	
	NPE	SPE	NPUE	SPM	NPM	NPH	SPH
Female	46	50	16	22	15	22	21
Male	2	2	2	10	5	17	14
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hispanic	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	46	52	18	32	20	38	34
Two or More	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**2021-2022 District Data Form (continued)**

MAAP Data – Level 4 and Higher			
	ELA (MAAP)	Math (MAAP)	Science
Grade 3	49	63	
Grade 4	45.1	59.1	
Grade 5	59.3	58.1	78
Grade 6	53.6	62.3	
Grade 7	38.5	57.3	
Grade 8	43.1	62.4	65.2
High School End of Course (EOC) – Percent Proficient or Above			
Algebra I	63.2		
US History	71.6		
Biology	69.2		
English II	45		



**2021-2022 District Data Form (Continued)**

Number of GED Option Program Students <b>NA</b>	Number of Students Taking the GED Test <b>NA</b>
Number of GED Options Program Students Successfully Completing the GED <b>NA</b>	Number of Students Passing One or More Sections of the GED Test <b>NA</b>
Number of Students Who Are Two or More Years Behind Grade Level by 9th Grade <b>16</b>	Does your district currently offer a “Fast Track” Program for high school students? <b>No</b>
Number of Students with 5 or More Unexcused Absences <b>1,893</b>	Number of Students with 12 or More Unexcused Absences <b>859</b>
Number of Student Discipline Referrals <b>807</b>	Number of Students Receiving Free/Reduced Meals <b>2,352/ 65.7%</b> (Last year, all students received free lunches due to Covid. These numbers are pre-pandemic.)
Number of Referrals to Child Find <b>102</b>	Number of Alternative School Referrals <b>29</b>
Number of Homeless Students <b>21</b>	

### **Our Goal**

The goal for the Pontotoc County School District (PCSD) is to provide each student a successful path to graduation, thereby improving our graduation rate and decreasing our dropout rate. This goal is begun in our primary grades and carried through to our high schools.

### **Our Vision**

“Relentlessly Pursuing the Exceptional”

### **Our Beliefs**

The Pontotoc Public School District is guided by a set of core beliefs.

We believe:

- Every child can learn
- Everyone should give their best everyday
- Families and our communities are our valued partners
- In a safe, nurturing environment
- That respect, honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness should be practiced by all
- That decisions should be made in the best interests of students
- In using innovative practices to meet the needs of all learners
- In shared decision-making

### **Our Mission**

The Pontotoc County School District is determined to serve the community by providing students with a safe environment, exceptional programs and educational opportunities under the leadership of a highly qualified staff that is selfless, professional and collegial.

## Strategic Plan





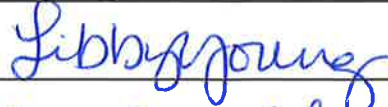

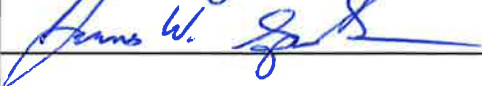









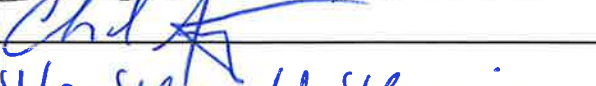
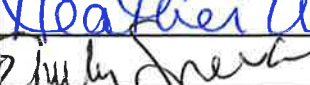


The PCSD has established policies and procedures that assist in identifying and decreasing the indicators associated with dropping out of school.

- Records on attendance, tardy, discipline, academic grades, for K-12 are kept and are readily accessible by school administrators, counselors and teachers through digital means.
  - The county school attendance officer receives attendance and tardy reports daily in order to assist with the district's student attendance.
  - Discipline reports are shared with administrators and staff on an ongoing process.
  - Parental/Guardian contact is made as soon as attendance, tardy or discipline issues are identified.
  - PCSD has at least one (1) parent conference day embedded in the yearly schedule where conferences are set up to discuss academic scores and grades. Parents are communicated with concerning grades with frequency of report cards and progress reports.
  - Parents/Guardians can access their student's grades from the portal.
  - PCSD staff uses ELS and MDE data reports to evaluate and assess student test data.
  - PCSD staff use MasteryConnect to continuously monitor student mastery of standards. Benchmarks from Mastery View Predictive Assessments are given 3 times per year. This allows them to differentiate instruction based on student needs.
  - The failure of Subject Area Tests by a high school student begins a sequence of reteaching, attending workshops where students are also retaught, and retested.
  - An ACT preparation class is available for students to improve their ACT scores.
  - An ACT score of 17 in reading and in math can be used as passing a Subject Area Test after that test has been failed two times.
  - Credit recovery is available and presented to students who are behind in the collection of their high school units required for graduation.
  - A GED/Adult Basic Education course is available to students at the WIN Job Center.
  - Behavior Intervention Plans are used with students who have behavior issues.
  - In order to assist our EL students towards graduation, an additional EL assistant has been hired and plans include hiring an additional assistant.
  - All teachers are being trained to use literacy in their classrooms.
  - In order to better facilitate tracking and maintaining open lines of communication with students/parents, an additional counselor has been hired at each high school. We anticipate tremendous benefits from having this additional counselor.
- PCSD creates an awareness of student's reading skill levels in kindergarten through grade 3.
  - Kindergarten students are given the MKAS each year to assess reading readiness.
  - A Universal Screener is used in grades K-8 to assess the students' reading levels and math levels (iReady).

- o All teachers in K-3 have attended and are using the LETRS training.
  - o Most teachers in K-3 have attended Orton Gillingham Training.
  - o PCSD has a strong, organized RTI/MTSS process in grades K-3.
  - o Both elementary schools have interventionist and academic coaches to instruct and work with students placed in Tier 3 of the RTI/MTSS (Response to Intervention) process.
  - o Teachers work with paraprofessionals to plan strategic activities for those students in Tier 2 of the MTSS process.
  - o iReady progress monitoring (K-3) in both reading and math, is done during the year to have data of the students' progress and to communicate with the parents of students who need extra help at home.
  - o Testing for Student Services is scheduled for those who are not successful in the MTSS process.
  - o Teachers have been trained in attaining growth for all students.
- Policies and Initiatives that ensure all students are College and Career Ready
    - o The Initiative of "Literacy for All" has been implemented. All teachers are encouraged to work with their students on literacy.
    - o Grades K-12 use the PBIS program that focuses on rewarding attendance/All schools have submitted and have been approved for PBIS Grants.
    - o High School students have the opportunity to earn college credit through dual enrollment classes.
    - o Advanced Placement (AP) classes have been added to both high schools.
    - o A fully functioning Career and Technical Center is available to high school students and allows students to have experience in diversified careers as well as earning credits towards graduation.
- Identify current needs within the district that will increase the district's current high school graduation rate.
    - o Students entering the 9th grade reading on grade level.
    - o Students need to attend school daily (attendance goals).
    - o Changing the attitude of some parents who think being at school every day is not important.
    - o Due to current state testing demands, we are implementing college and career readiness goals, standards, and preparation (MDE).
    - o Increasing the number of students who are involved in Career and Technical Education at the Pontotoc Ridge Career and Technology Center.
- Identification of existing resources and existing prioritized needs.
    - o The transition from the juvenile detention centers is done through PCSD's Alternative School program. Each student's situation is decided on a case by case basis with a maximum of 45 days in the Alternative School.
    - o The PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) program is used in grades K-12
    - o A full time behaviorist is employed by the district to work with Special Services

- o student behavior.
  - o The district has three (3) interventionists who work with our Tier Level elementary students.
  - o Additional funds are needed to hire personnel to work with our at –risk students at all grade levels.
- Implementing high school completion initiatives emphasizing the needs of individual local education agencies.
    - o We have the opportunity to work with ICC and Blue Mountain for our students to enroll in dual enrollment college credit.
    - o ICC has a GED program in the community for older students, (ages 17 to 21) in danger of dropping out or not completing a high school equivalent.
    - o The WorkKeys assessments are now given to all Juniors within the district (at least once during their high school career and maybe twice). The local WIN Job Center also offers the platinum, gold, silver, and bronze WorkKeys test levels to assist with employability.
    - o Three Rivers Planning and Development District offers initiatives such as the Peer Tutoring Program to support high school students in their graduation efforts.

**Members of the Dropout Prevention Team**

Name	Position	School	Signature
Brock Puckett	Superintendent	District	
Jimmy Flake	Curriculum Coordinator	District	
Tami Harrell	Student Services Director	District	
Ellen Hill	Student Services Assistant Director	District	
Libby Young	District Test Coordinator	District	
Ashley Coleman	Assistant Curriculum Director	District	
Wilson Speck	Alternative School	Director	
Patricia Ellison	Director	Pontotoc Ridge Career and Technology Center	
Blair Cullum	Counselor	Pontotoc Ridge Career and Technology Center	
Brad Parker	Principal	North Elementary	
Haley Stewart	Assistant Principal	North Elementary	
Michelle Bailey	Counselor	North Elementary	
Hillery Wise	Principal	North Upper Elementary	
Dawn Cooper	Counselor	North Upper Elementary	
Jim Matthews	Principal	North Middle	
Beth McCuller	Counselor	North Middle	
Brian Sutton	Principal	North High	
Chad Anthony	Assistant Principal	North High	
Heather Uithoven	Counselor	North High	
Emily Speck	Principal	South Elementary	

Doug Gentry	Assistant Principal	South Elementary	Doug Gentry
Laurie Britt	Counselor	South Elementary	Laurie Britt
Ben Moore	Principal	South Middle	Ben Moore
Jason Varnon	Assistant Principal	South Middle	Jason Varnon
Holly Morgan	Counselor	South Middle	Holly Morgan
Brant Puckett	Principal	South High	Brant Puckett
Mark Vandiver	Assistant Principal	South High	Mark Vandiver
Michelle Roye	Counselor	South High	Michelle Roye