



# Drop-out Prevention Plan 2023-2024

**COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# Dropout Prevention Plan

## Cover Sheet

<b>School District: 4620 Columbia</b>	
Superintendent	Jason Harris, Ph.D.
Director of Curriculum and Instruction	Otha Belcher, Ed.D.
Director of Federal Programs	Amy Lee
Director of Special Services	Renea Rayborn
<b>High School</b>	
Columbia High School - 008	Principal L.V. McNeal
<b>Middle School</b>	
Jefferson Middle School – 016	Principal Sara Bardwell, Ph.D.
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	
Columbia Elementary School- 004	Principal Leslie Smith, Ed.D.
Columbia Primary School - 012	Principal Jay Rayborn, Ph.D.

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### Local Dropout Prevention Team Members

Jason Harris, Ph.D.	Superintendent
Justin McKenzie	Mayor
Otha Belcher, Ed.D.	Curriculum Director
Amy Lee	Federal Programs Director
Karmen Butler	JMS Counselor
Danderia Walker	CHS Counselor
Lindsey Lucas	CHS Counselor
L.V. McNeal	CHS Principal
Sara Bardwell, Ph.D.	JMS Principal
Leslie Smith, Ed.D.	CES Principal
Jay Rayborn, Ph.D.	CPS Principal
Charles Boston	Community Team Member
Kristi Johnson	Community Team Member
Lori Watts	Community Team Member
Lt. Dave Burns	Resource Officer
Kim Davis	School Staff Member
Emily Rayborn	School Staff Member

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## I. Statement of Assurance

On behalf of the Columbia School District, I hereby submit our district's Dropout Prevention Plan to provide goals, activities, and services necessary to meet the overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan:

Maintain a graduation rate  $\geq 90\%$  for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 school years.

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 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 the 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: Jason Harris, Ph.D.

Director of Curriculum & Instruction: Otha Belcher, Ed.D.

School Board Chair: Eric Lucas

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## Needs Assessment Outcomes

Needs Assessment Areas	Descriptions
<b>Target Group Identified</b>	Grades K-12
<b>Data Collection Methods Used</b>	Academic Data Attendance Data Discipline Data Dropout Data Needs Assessment Survey Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Documentation
<b>Prioritized List of Needs</b>	1) Increase student achievement 2) Mentors for students 3) Alternative Diploma Options
<b>Short Term Goals</b>	Continue to... Increase attendance Increase number of students scoring proficient or advanced on state tests Reduce dropout rate
<b>Long Term Goals</b>	Provide skills necessary to be successful after graduation
<b>Recommendations for future needs assessments</b>	Continue to monitor progress toward goals and provide annual follow-up and review



## Current District Initiatives

In this section, please list each of your current district dropout prevention initiatives, demonstrating how they fit within the 15 Effective Strategies from the National Dropout Prevention Center Network (NDPC/N) and for the various school levels. Each initiative should be related to the three overarching goals of increasing the district graduation rate; reducing the district dropout rate, and reducing the district truancy rate. Please provide an elaboration of each program on separate attachments, labeled Appendix A – Current District Initiatives.

Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Primary School	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<b>Systemic Renewal</b>	District Assessments Positive Behavior Supports MTSS Model Universal Screening Interventions Progress Monitoring	District Assessments Positive Behavior Supports MTSS Model Universal Screening Interventions Progress Monitoring	District Assessments Positive Behavior Supports MTSS Model Universal Screening Interventions Progress Monitoring	District Assessments Positive Behavior Supports MTSS Model Universal Screening Interventions Progress Monitoring	Credit Recovery Tier Process Interventions Positive Behavior Supports Assessment ACT (Fall & Spring) ACT & MAAP Boot Camps
<b>School-Community Collaboration</b>	Canvas Career Education CSD Website Guest Speakers Health Fair Open Houses School Programs Senior Walk	Community Volunteers Positive Behavior Support Canvas Book Fairs Choral Concerts Collaboration with CES, JMS, & CHS for various activities.	Community Volunteers Positive Behavior Support Canvas Book Fairs Choral Concerts One School, One Book	Positive Behavior Support Incentive Programs (Partnership with USM, Domino's Pizza, American Legion Post 90) Community Speakers Book Fair Canvas, Lunch with Loved Ones, Coffee Chats with Principals, First Priority.	Incentive Programs Positive Behavior Support Senior Projects Open Houses Student Activities Canvas College Fair Career Fair Athletics Community Service Club & Organizations Service Learning Collaboration with CPS & CES District-wide Homecoming Activities



<b>Safe Learning Environments</b>	Crisis Management Plan Intra-school Communication Positive Behavior Support Security Cameras Visitors Sign In Student Uniforms	Anti-Bullying Bus Safety Conscious Discipline Crisis Management Plan Motivational School Programs Red Ribbon Week Student of the Week Resource Officer Activity Awards Dual Lock security entry w/card reader	Anti-Bullying Conscious Discipline Crisis Management Plan Positive Action Character Positive Behavior Support Red Ribbon Week Student of the Week Dual Lock security entry w/card reader	Crisis Management Plan Security Cameras Personnel ID Badges Positive Behavior Support Red Ribbon Week Student of the Month Club School Resource Officer Student Uniform Policy Dual Lock security entry w/card reader	Crisis Management Plan ID Badges School Resource Officer Intra-school Communication Visitor Sign-In/Tags Security Cameras Uniform Dress Code Messaging System Dual Lock security entry w/card reader
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Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Primary School	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<b>Family Engagement</b>	Superintendent's Scholars Breakfasts PTA Meetings Parent Conferences Programs for Parents Canvas Open House	Award Assemblies Grade Musicals Grandparents Week Parent Conferences Open House PTA Parent Volunteers Canvas Title I Meetings Field Trips Book Fairs Homeroom Mothers	All-Pro Dads iMoms Parent University Grandparents Days Homeroom Mothers Open House PTA Title I Annual Meeting Tutors Volunteers Canvas One School, One Book	Automated Family Calling Open House Parent Conferences Parent Volunteers at Renaissance Activities Title I Annual Meeting PTA Canvas	Parent Conferences for Scheduling Open Houses Class Orientations Student Activities Canvas College Fair Career Fair School-wide Service Learning Project Field Trips Athletic & Activities Events Teachers & Students Appreciations District-Wide Homecoming Activities
<b>Early Childhood Education</b>	Speech/Language Collaboration with Head Start Member of Marion County/Columbia Early Learning Collaborative	Collaboration with area daycare facilities Pre-K Program Member of Marion County/Columbia Early Learning Collaborative			

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<b>Early Literacy Education</b>	Accelerated Reader MTSS Process	Accelerated Reader Pre-K Program MTSS Process	Accelerated Reader MTSS Process		
<b>Mentoring/ Tutoring</b>	After-School Tutoring Extended School Year Intervention Big Brother/Big Sister Program Remediation/ Enrichment Days between Terms	Extended School Year Interventionist Tutoring Title I Remediation/ Enrichment Days between Terms	Year In-House Safety Nets Intervention Title I Methodists Church & Teacher After School Program Remediation/ Enrichment Days between Terms	After-School Tutoring Intervention Young Woman Talk Remediation/ Enrichment Days between Terms	Mentoring Program Remediation for MAAP Courses ACT Boot Camp MAAP Boot Camps CANVAS School Status After-school Tutoring Honor Societies Mentoring & Tutoring Programs Remediation/ Enrichment Days between Terms

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Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Primary School	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<b>Service-Learning</b>	Clubs Service Projects	Citizenship recognition Community Volunteers	Student Council Clubs & Organizations	Clubs & Organizations	Clubs & Organizations Honor Societies Senior Projects Wildcat Ambassadors School-wide Service Learning Projects Athletic Department Collaborations with CPS & CES
<b>Alternative Schooling</b>	Second Chance School Distance Learning	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	Second Chance Center Distance Learning	Second Chance Center Canvas Blended Learning with NWEA MAP Assessments Distance Learning
<b>After-School Opportunities</b>	Sports; Clubs Arts/Music Tutoring Extended School Year	MAAP Preparation Tutoring	Clubs & Organizations	Athletics Clubs & Organizations Extended School	Extended School Year Athletics Clubs/Organizations Tutoring Credit Recovery Athletics & Activities MHSAA Scholar Athletes & Teams

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<b>Professional Development</b>	Analyzing Test Scores Curriculum Frameworks Depth of Knowledge Differentiated Instruction Instructional Technology Pacing Guides Professional Leave for Conferences, Workshops, etc. Staff Development Days Teacher Support Teams Test Item Development MTSS Workshop Opportunities Summer PD with professionals On-Line PD	Conscious Discipline Curriculum Framework Grade Level PLCs Instructional Strategies Pacing Guide Dev. Vertical Alignment MTSS Teacher Support Team Technology Workshops Test Item Construction Positive Behavior Incentive System Training (PBIS) On-Line PD	Academic Vocabulary Curriculum Frameworks Effective Teaching Strategies Faculty Meetings Grade Level Meetings Read Aloud/Think Aloud Comprehension Strategies Teacher Support Team Test Item Construction MTSS Job Embedded PLCs Positive Behavior Incentive System Training (PBIS) On-Line PD	Curriculum Frameworks Effective Teaching Strategies Faculty Meetings Grade Level Meetings Teacher Support Team Technology Workshops Thinking Maps MTSS Pacing Guides Teacher Mentoring Program Differentiated Instruction Instructional Technology On-Line PD	Grade Level & School Wide PLCs Faculty Meetings MTSS Effective Teaching Strategies Technology Competencies Mini-Sessions MAAP Curriculum Teaching Strategies MECA Conference Specific Subject Area Conferences School-wide New Teacher Mentoring Program Advanced Placement Conferences LAMP – Library Conference Counselors Conference MHSAA Conference ACT Training ACT Boot Camps MAAP Boot Camps On-Line PD
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15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Primary School	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<b>Active Learning</b>	MTSS Interventions Science Labs Arts Music Programs Physical Education	Body Walk Field Trips Research Assignments Rat Pack Brain Breaks Individualized on-line instruction	October – Career Month Computer Carts Computer Lab Brain Breaks Move to Learn Flip-Camera Videos Promethean Technology	Computer Lab Music Science Fair Smart Boards Chorus Project Based Learning Activities Promethean Technology	Art Computer Lab Junior/Senior Projects Music Real World Experience Science Lab Smart Boards College Visits Career Fair College Fair School-wide Service Learning Honor Societies Service Learning Projects
<b>Educational Technology</b>	Promethean Boards Streaming Videos Software Internet Instructional Professional Development Specialist One-to-one district wide	Accelerated Reader Individualized on-line instruction Promethean Technology Canvas	Accelerated Reader Flip-Camera Videos Promethean Technology Canvas	Promethean Boards Smart Boards Tech Prep Canvas Promethean Technology SAMS	STEM Lite Technology Coordinator Smart Boards Variety of Computers and Technology Equipment Canvas Introduction to Computer Programing

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<b>Individualized Instruction</b>	MTSS Interventions Differentiated Instruction Software MTSS/Intervention Strategist MTSS Director Digital Individualized Learning Online Tutoring Service	Differentiated Instruction Intervention MTSS Tutoring SPED Digital Individualized Learning	Differentiated Instruction MTSS SPED Online Tutoring Service	Differentiated Instruction Interventions Special Education Tutoring Tier Process Online Tutoring Service	Differentiated Instruction Interventions Special Education Individualized Scheduling Tier Process CHOICES CANVAS ACT & MAAP Boot Camps Advanced Placement and Dual-Enrollment Courses Honor Societies Online Tutoring Service
<b>Career and Technical Education (CTE)</b>	Vocational Education Career, Computer, & Cyber Foundations	Community Volunteers Technology Ed. In classrooms STEAM Curriculum Computer Science for MS (CS4MS)	Career Discovery Month Career Day Community Volunteers present careers at CES Field Trips to Vocational Center Computer Science for MS (CS4MS)	Cyber Foundations I Cyber Foundations II Field Trips to Career Center for eighth grade students Computer Science for MS (CS4MS)	Marion County Career & Technical Center (MCCTC) CHOICES CPAS Career Fair Industries Certifications College Fair Technical Honor Societies Mississippi Scholar Technical Honors

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## Appendix B – Proposed District Initiatives

	Grade Level Addressed (District-wide, Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, High)	Purpose or Goal	Who is Involved?	Proposed Cost	Timeline for Implementation	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
Proposed Initiative: MS Virtual Public School (MVPS) Connections Academy	High School	To offer curriculum not currently offered	Principal, Counselors, Parents, Teachers, & MDE	None	Ongoing - as needed	Active Learning Education Technology	Increase academic performance Increase graduation rate
Proposed Initiative: Positive Behavior Supports Behavior Interventionist	High School	Increase student attendance and achievement	Principal, Counselors, Teachers, Students, Parents, Community		Ongoing	Individualized Instruction School/Community Collaboration Family Engagement	Improvement in student attendance and achievement
Proposed Initiative: Modified Class Schedules	High School	Meet needs of students	School Staff			Individualized Instruction	Increase graduation rate

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Proposed Initiative: Learning management System (Canvas)	District-wide	Increase student achievement (Canvas -web- based application records lessons for students to review and MDE review sessions for SATP2)	Faculty, Staff, Students		Ongoing	Individualized Instruction	Increase student achievement
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## Evaluating Effectiveness

Please complete the chart below to detail your district’s plan for evaluating both your current and proposed dropout prevention initiatives. For each initiative (current or proposed), you should note the following information:

- Performance indicators / method of evaluation – provide the measures your district will use to determine effectiveness of either the proposed initiative and should be related to the initiative’s purpose or goal. Performance indicators may include areas such as the following: increase in test scores; increased participation in extracurricular activities; decrease in student referrals; increase in parent participation; etc.
- Sources of data – describe what data will be used to support the performance indicators and how the data will be accessed
- Dropout prevention strategy addressed – indicate which of the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention is addressed the proposed initiative

	<b>Performance Indicators/Method of Evaluation</b>	<b>Sources of Data</b>	<b>Baseline Data (% , # or Rate)</b>	<b>Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed</b>	<b>Goal Met? Yes/No</b>
<b>Current Initiative:</b> <b>School Messenger (Reporting Absences) Canvas</b>	Track student/school/ district attendance rates	SAMS student data School Status	Compare with previous months or years	Systemic Renewal	
<b>Current Initiative:</b> <b>District Assessments</b>	Increase % of student performing above state average	District Assessment Score Reports, State Test Data	% Proficient/ Advanced @ each grade level on state tests	Systemic Renewal	
<b>Current Initiative:</b> <b>Intervention and Enrichment days embedded in the academic calendar</b>	Compare grades and state test scores from year to year	Report Cards, State Test Scores, SATP2, MAAP	Previous year’s grades & scores	Mentoring/Tutoring	

