

Hattiesburg Public Schools

Cursive Handwriting Plan



“Built for Greatness”

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS CURSIVE HANDWRITING PLAN

VISION: The Hattiesburg Public Schools is to create a **model teaching and learning environment** that graduates every student prepared for success in life, college, and the workforce.

MISSION: The mission of the Hattiesburg Public Schools is **to educate all students** to become productive citizens of a dynamic, global community.

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRATEGIC GOALS:

- 1. Academic Success:** Every student is proficient and showing growth in all assessed areas.
- 2. Effective and Committed Staff:** Every classroom and department is led by caring, supportive, and highly effective staff.
- 3. Positive School Climate and Culture:** All schools are safe, supportive, and welcoming.
- 4. Family and Community Engagement:** All families and the community are informed, connected, and contribute to the success of our students and schools.
- 5. Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainable Resources:** All District resources support the full implementation of the strategic plan.

DISTRICT BELIEFS:

- We believe students are the central focus of all District activities and can achieve at high levels.
- We believe every adult plays a vital role in our students' growth and development.
- We believe in strategically allocating resources to educate students in high-quality learning environments.
- We believe in providing students with a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities and experiences.
- We believe everyone is a leader.
- We believe the community plays an essential role in the District's success.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to describe Hattiesburg Public Schools Plan for Cursive Writing in accordance with the Mississippi Legislature Senate Bill 2273 passed on July 1, 2017, which requires all public school districts to meet the following elementary education curriculum standard for cursive writing in support of the Mississippi College-and-Career- Readiness Standards for English Language Arts:

The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide instruction in cursive reading and writing, implemented across the curriculum, so that students create readable documents through legible cursive handwriting by the end of the fifth grade, and that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test demonstrating the students' competency in both reading and writing cursive. This requirement shall be applicable beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

INTRODUCTION

Cursive handwriting is any style of penmanship in which some characters are written and joined together in a flowing manner that is always looped and connected. In an effort to implement instruction pertaining to cursive writing, Hattiesburg Public Schools embraces the following benefits and ideals of cursive writing outlined in the Mississippi Department of Education Cursive Writing Guidance Document:

- Cursive writing may allow students to write at a faster rate than traditional block print handwriting.
- Cursive writing may increase brain activity.
- Cursive writing may impact performance across all disciplines.
- Cursive writing may provide a foundation for higher-order thinking skills.
- Cursive writing may directly affect the ability of students to read historical documents written in cursive handwriting.
- Cursive writing may allow students opportunities for options of creativity and choice in their style of writing penmanship.

STANDARDS

Within the Mississippi College and Career- Readiness Standards for the English Language Arts the following standards for handwriting and cursive handwriting are listed:

Language Grades 2 through Grades 8	
Conventions of Standard English	
L.2.1 L.3.1 L.4.1 L.5.1 L.6.2 L.7.1 L.8.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing (printing, cursive, or keyboarding) or speaking.

HPS CURSIVE HANDWRITING RESOURCES

- Zaner Bloser Handwriting Practice Workbooks Grades 3-5 <https://www.zaner-bloser.com/>
- HPS Cursive Handwriting Teacher Resource Toolkit

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wNSFi1R5jIVUkUrTAZ_viklu5lsOMYrW

HPS CURSIVE HANDWRITING ASSESSMENT OUTLINE GRADES 3-5

<p>GRADE 3</p>	<p>The concept of cursive writing and the beginning steps for cursive writing is introduced in the 3rd grade. Students are provided opportunities to practice the proper formation of cursive letters. Teachers may provide brief informal assessments and daily work practice for cursive in the 3rd grade.</p>
<p>GRADE 4</p>	<p>A mandatory cursive handwriting assessment is given to all HPS 4th graders to demonstrate proficiency. HPS 4th grade students will be assessed during the 2025-2026 school year in Spring 2026, with specific testing dates to be determined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students must score 10 points or higher on the HPSD Cursive Handwriting Rubric to obtain proficiency. ● HPS Cursive Writing Assessment Rubric https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RB7yOdc19G36P_t8T9UhvDjNA995w_gKxIBS485FiIQ ● Students who fail to meet the proficiency requirements on the initial cursive handwriting assessment in 4th grade will have additional opportunities to retest by the end of their 4th grade school year. Students who fail may be assigned to attend Summer Programs for additional remedial support in cursive writing and an additional retest summer retest opportunity. ● HPS files evidence of students’ cursive handwriting proficiency in the cumulative record folders for access and verification with students’ State Assessment scores.
<p>GRADE 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students who do NOT meet cursive writing proficiency requirements by the end of 4th grade will retest during their 5th-grade year. ● Students who do NOT meet cursive writing proficiency requirements by the end of 5th grade will retest before moving to the 6th grade. Students who fail may be assigned to attend Summer Programs for additional remedial support in cursive writing and an additional retest summer retest opportunity. ● All New to HPS 5th grade students who do NOT have evidence of having taken a cursive handwriting assessment and demonstrated proficiency during their 4th grade school year will be assessed during their HPS 5th grade school year.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

- Hattiesburg Public Schools will discuss and provide communication regarding the purposes of cursive writing to parents.
- Hattiesburg Public Schools will encourage parents to support cursive writing practice at home. For example, at-home activities for cursive are,
 - Parents and students practice cursive writing at home and compare handwriting styles for fun.
 - Parents and students work together to write advertisements or create signs in cursive for different products.
 - Parents and students write letters using cursive and send those correspondences to relatives and friends or to someone in the military.

Hattiesburg Public Schools will work with students, teachers, and parents to support proficiency in cursive writing by the end of fifth grade for students. Additionally, as students progress in academic grades, they should have opportunities to choose to write in manuscript/traditional print or cursive and to choose the type of handwriting that is best for their strengths. Equipping students with the necessary academic reading, writing, and language skills needed for success is the focus of Hattiesburg Public Schools as it embraces both the cursive handwriting requirements as well as the computer keyboarding skills needed throughout the grade levels to read, write, comprehend, and communicate effectively. For questions or additional information, contact Hattiesburg Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction Department at 601-582-5078.