JACKSON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Transforming lives through excellent education

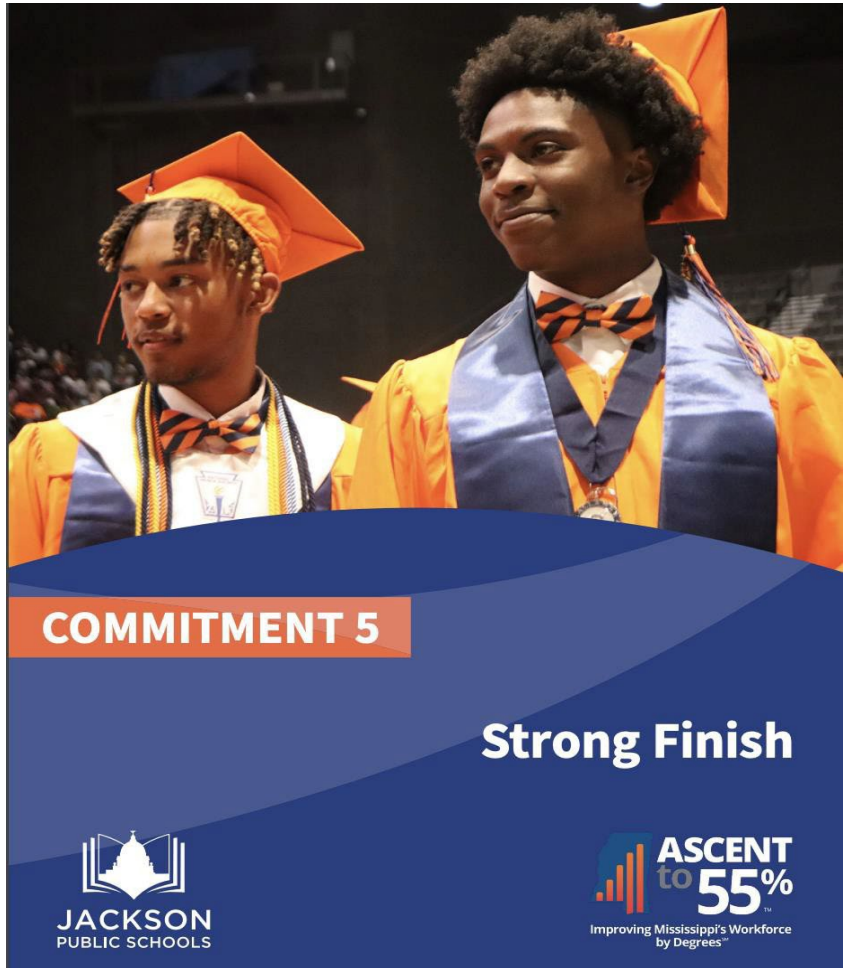
Evaluating the Impact of the Electronic Device Policy

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JPS Commitment 5: Strong Finish





Scholars thrive when they can connect what they do in school to their hopes and dreams for life after high school. Jackson Public Schools is committed to putting every scholar on a pathway to post-secondary success, ensuring that they graduate college-ready and career-minded. The district endorses the state's post-secondary attainment goal, Ascent to 55%, which supports efforts to increase the number of Mississippians with a degree, credential, or industry certification earned beyond high school. Through the strategic initiatives below, we will help all scholars identify and pursue pathways that align with their goals and interests, help them earn valuable credentials, and prepare them for success in education, employment, or enlistment.

Key Initiatives	Implementation Years				
	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
Create a post-secondary success dashboard and goals aligned to the Mississippi Economic Council's Ascent to 55% campaign.	P	I	I	I	R
Ensure that all pathways have clear course sequences that incorporate opportunities for scholars to earn early college credit or credentials with labor market value.	I	I	R	R	R
Develop and implement a Grades 6-12 post-secondary advising framework to help all scholars identify their interests, discover potential careers, and enroll in aligned post-secondary education.	P	I	I	R	R
Increase access to college exposure and work-based learning opportunities.	I	I	I	R	R
Implement college transition supports, including near-peer advising and college partnerships.	I	I	I	R	R
Develop and implement a tailored transition support program to address the unique needs of scholars with disabilities and provide the resources and guidance necessary to help them successfully navigate post-secondary education and launch meaningful careers.	P	I	I	I	R
Launch a Family Post-secondary Academy that helps families understand and support college and career options for their scholars.	P	I	R	R	R

Legend: P Planning I Implementation R Refinement

Policy Overview

JPS Board Policy

- Student Conduct & Discipline
- Student Technology Use/Acceptable Use

JPS Strategic Plan

College & Career Readiness Goals

Mississippi College & Career Readiness Standards

What Is Working

- Hallway transitions have improved
- Classroom disruptions have decreased
- Student focus has increased
- Stronger instructional engagement
- Honor Roll count has increased

College & Career Readiness Reality

In College & Career Readiness classes, students are required to:

- Complete college applications
- Apply for scholarships
- Submit FAFSA
- Register for the ACT
- Access university portals
- Enroll in dual credit courses

Multi-Factor Authentication Barrier

Most platforms require two-step verification:

- Jackson State University student portal
- Common App
- FAFSA (FSA ID)
- Scholarship portals

Students must:

- Receive a text message code
- Approve login through an authentication app
- Verify identity through personal email

Taking out our phone can result in being disciplined.

Personal Email Access Issue

District - issued devices;

- Allow only school email access
- Block personal email accounts

The Issue:

- Encouraged to use personal email address as seniors
- Acceptances and confirmations go to personal email
- FAFSA communication goes to personal email
- University portals are tied to personal or university emails

Students are expected to complete tasks, but cannot fully access the tools needed.

The Unintended Consequence

The policy has improved school climate!

However, it may have unintentionally created barriers to:

- College enrollment
- Dual credit participation
- Scholarship completion
- FAFSA access
- Workforce access

Proposed Strategic Adjustment

Option 1: Structured access during CCR
Allow supervised phone use during CCR for authentication only

Option 2: MFA Exception Language
“Students may access personal devices for required multi-factor authentication related to college, scholarship, or postsecondary enrollment processes under staff supervision .

Option 3: Technology Adjustment
Permit personal email access on district devices.

Option 4: Postsecondary Zone
A safe space where students can use electronic devices for MFA purposes **only** .

Why This Matters

Our district goals include:

- Increased graduation rate
- Increased FAFSA completion
- Increased scholarship dollars
- Increased college enrollment
- Workforce readiness

Limited access to small things can have a big impact.

Student Voice

Students are not asking for unrestricted phone use.

We are asking for access that is:

- Structured
- Supervised
- Purpose-driven access

This allows us to:

- Secure our futures
- Meet district expectations
- Compete for postsecondary opportunities

Conclusion

The cell phone policy has strengthened our schools.

Now we have an opportunity to refine it in a way that:

- ✓ Maintains discipline
- ✓ Preserves instructional focus
- ✓ Supports college and career readiness

When policies evolve alongside student needs, outcomes improve.