# The

# Drop-out Prevention Plan

# 2026-2027

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**JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**
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# Dropout Prevention Plan

## Cover Sheet

| School District: 4620 Columbia | |
|---|---|
| Superintendent | Jason Harris, Ph.D. |
| Chief Operations Officer | Jay Rayborn, Ph.D. |
| Director of Curriculum & Instruction | Tessa Trimm |
| Director of Federal Programs | Keri Armstrong, Ed.D. |
| Director of Special Services | Sara Bardwell, Ph.D. |
| **High School** | |
| Columbia High School - 008 | Principal L.V. McNeal |
| **Middle School** | |
| Jefferson Middle School – 016 | Principal James Powell |
| **Elementary Schools** | |
| Columbia Elementary School- 004 | Principal Lesley Campbell |
| Columbia Primary School - 012 | Principal Ashley Haddox |

## Local Dropout Prevention Team Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Jason Harris, Ph.D. | Superintendent |
| Justin McKenzie | Mayor |
| Jay Rayborn, Ph.D. | Chief Operations Officer |
| Keri Armstrong, Ed.D. | Federal Programs Director |
| Danita Stevenson | JMS Counselor |
| Danderia Walker | CHS Counselor |
| Lindsey Lucas | CHS Counselor |
| L.V. McNeal | CHS Principal |
| James Powell | JMS Principal |
| Lesley Campbell | CES Principal |
| Ashley Haddox | CPS Principal |
| Charles Boston | Community Team Member |
| Kristi Johnson | Community Team Member |
| Lori Watts | Community Team Member |
| Brenda Young | Resource Officer |
| Kim Davis | School Staff Member |
| Emily Rayborn | School Staff Member |

# 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 **≥ 90% for the 2026-2027 and the 2027-2028 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: Tessa Trimm _____

School Board Chair: Eric Lucas _____

# Needs Assessment Outcomes

| Needs Assessment Areas | Descriptions |
|---|---|
| **Target Group Identified** | Grades K-12 |
| **Data Collection Methods Used** | Academic Data<br>Attendance Data<br>Discipline Data<br>Dropout Data<br>Needs Assessment Survey<br>Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Documentation |
| **Prioritized List of Needs** | 1) Increase student achievement<br>2) Mentors for students<br>3) Alternative Diploma Options |
| **Short Term Goals** | Continue to…<br>Increase attendance<br>Increase number of students scoring proficient or advanced on state tests<br>Reduce dropout rate |
| **Long Term Goals** | Provide skills necessary to be successful after graduation |
| **Recommendations for future needs assessments** | 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 |
| **Systemic Renewal** | District Assessments<br>Positive Behavior Supports<br>MTSS Model<br>Universal Screening<br>Interventions<br>Progress Monitoring | District Assessments<br>Positive Behavior Supports<br>MTSS Model<br>Universal Screening<br>Interventions<br>Progress Monitoring | District Assessments<br>Positive Behavior Supports<br>MTSS Model<br>Universal Screening<br>Interventions<br>Progress Monitoring | District Assessments<br>Positive Behavior Supports<br>MTSS Model<br>Universal Screening<br>Interventions<br>Progress Monitoring | Credit Recovery<br>Tier Process Interventions<br>Positive Behavior Supports<br>Assessment<br>ACT (Fall & Spring)<br>ACT & MAAP Boot Camps |
| **School-Community Collaboration** | Canvas<br>Career Education<br>CSD Website<br>Guest Speakers<br>Health Fair<br>Open Houses<br>School Programs<br>Senior Walk<br>Parent Advisory Committee Meetings | Community Volunteers<br>Positive Behavior Support<br>Canvas<br>Book Fairs<br>Choral Concerts<br>One School, One Book<br>Collaboration with Farm Bureau Federation<br>Collaboration with CES, JMS, & CHS for various activities. | Community Volunteers<br>Positive Behavior Support<br>Canvas<br>Book Fairs<br>Choral Concerts<br>One School, One Book | Positive Behavior Support<br>Incentive Programs (Partnership with USM, Domino's Pizza, American Legion Post 90)<br>Community Speakers<br>Book Fair<br>Canvas, Lunch with Loved Ones, Coffee Chats with Principals, First Priority. | Incentive Programs<br>Positive Behavior Support<br>Open Houses<br>Student Activities<br>Canvas<br>College Fair<br>Career Fair<br>Athletics<br>Community Service<br>Club & Organizations<br>Service Learning<br>Collaboration with CPS & CES<br>District-wide Homecoming Activities |

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| **Safe Learning Environments** | Crisis Management Plan<br>Intra-school Communication<br>Positive Behavior Support<br>Security Cameras<br>Personnel ID Badges<br>Visitors Sign In<br>Student Uniforms | Anti-Bullying<br>Bus Safety<br>Conscious Discipline<br>Crisis Management Plan<br>Motivational School Programs<br>Red Ribbon Week<br>Student of the Week<br>Resource Officer<br>Activity Awards<br>Dual Lock security entry w/card reader | Anti-Bullying<br>Conscious Discipline<br>Crisis Management Plan<br>Positive Action Character<br>Positive Behavior Support<br>Red Ribbon Week<br>Student of the Week<br>Dual Lock security entry w/card reader | Crisis Management Plan<br>Security Cameras<br>Personnel ID Badges<br>Positive Behavior Support<br>Red Ribbon Week<br>Student of the Month Club<br>School Resource Officer<br>Student Uniform Policy<br>Dual Lock security entry w/card reader | Crisis Management Plan<br>ID Badges<br>School Resource Officer<br>Intra-school Communication<br>Visitor Sign-In/Tags<br>Security Cameras<br>Uniform Dress Code<br>Messaging System<br>Dual Lock security entry w/card reader |

| Dropout Prevention Strategies | School/Grade Level | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **District-wide** | **Primary School** | **Elementary School** | **Middle School** | **High School** |
| **Family Engagement** | Superintendent's Scholars Breakfasts<br>PTA Meetings<br>Parent Conferences<br>Programs for Parents<br>Canvas<br>Open House<br>Parent Advisory Committee Meetings | Award Assemblies<br>Grade Musicals<br>Grandparents Week<br>Parent Conferences<br>Open House<br>PTA<br>Parent Volunteers<br>Canvas<br>Title I Meetings<br>Field Trips<br>Book Fairs<br>Homeroom Mothers<br>One School, One Book | All-Pro Dads<br>iMoms<br>Parent University<br>Grandparents Days<br>Homeroom Mothers<br>Open House<br>PTA<br>Title I Annual Meeting<br>Tutors<br>Volunteers<br>Canvas<br>One School, One Book | Automated Family Calling<br>Open House<br>Parent Conferences<br>Parent Volunteers at Renaissance Activities<br>Title I Annual Meeting<br>PTA<br>Canvas | Parent Conferences for Scheduling<br>Open Houses<br>Class Orientations<br>Student Activities<br>Canvas<br>College Fair<br>Career Fair<br>School-wide Service Learning Project<br>Field Trips<br>Athletic & Activities Events<br>Teachers & Students Appreciation<br>District-Wide Homecoming Activities |
| **Early Childhood Education** | Speech/Language Collaboration with Head Start<br>Member of Marion County/Columbia Early Learning Collaborative | Collaboration with area daycare facilities<br>Pre-K Program<br>Member of Marion County/Columbia Early Learning Collaborative | | | |

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

| Dropout Prevention Strategies | School/Grade Level | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | District-wide | Primary School | Elementary School | Middle School | High School |
| **Service-Learning** | Clubs Service Projects | Citizenship Recognition<br>Community Volunteers | Student Council<br>Clubs & Organizations | Clubs & Organizations | Clubs & Organizations<br>Honor Societies<br>Senior Projects<br>Wildcat Ambassadors<br>School-wide Service Learning Projects<br>Athletic Department Collaborations with CPS & CES |
| **Alternative Schooling** | Second Chance School<br>Distance Learning<br>CARES<br>Transitional Behavior Class for K-2 | Distance Learning | Distance Learning | Second Chance Center<br>Distance Learning | Second Chance Center<br>Canvas<br>Assessments<br>Distance Learning |
| **After-School Opportunities** | Sports; Clubs<br>Arts/Music<br>Tutoring | MAAP Preparation<br>Tutoring | Clubs & Organizations | Athletics<br>Clubs & Organizations<br>Extended School | Extended School Year<br>Athletics<br>Clubs/Organizations<br>Tutoring<br>Credit Recovery<br>Athletics & Activities<br>MHSAA Scholar Athletes & Teams |

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| **Professional Development** | Analyzing Test Scores<br>Data Meetings<br>Curriculum Frameworks<br>Depth of Knowledge<br>Differentiated Instruction<br>Instructional Technology<br>Pacing Guides<br>Professional Leave for Conferences, Workshops, etc.<br>Staff Development Days<br>Teacher Support Teams<br>Test Item Development<br>MTSS<br>Workshop Opportunities<br>Summer PD with professionals<br>On-Line PD<br>PLCs | Data Meetings<br>Conscious Discipline<br>Curriculum Framework<br>Grade Level PLCs<br>Instructional Strategies<br>Pacing Guide Dev.<br>Vertical Alignment<br>MTSS<br>Teacher Support Team<br>Technology Workshops<br>Test Item Construction<br>Positive Behavior Incentive System Training (PBIS)<br>On-Line PD | Data Meetings<br>Academic Vocabulary<br>Curriculum Frameworks<br>Effective Teaching Strategies<br>Faculty Meetings<br>Grade Level Meetings<br>Read Aloud/Think Aloud<br>Comprehension Strategies<br>Teacher Support Team<br>Test Item Construction<br>MTSS<br>Job Embedded PLCs<br>Positive Behavior Incentive System Training (PBIS)<br>On-Line PD | Data Meetings<br>Curriculum Frameworks<br>Effective Teaching Strategies<br>Faculty Meetings<br>Grade Level Meetings<br>Teacher Support Team<br>Technology Workshops<br>Thinking Maps<br>MTSS<br>Pacing Guides<br>Teacher Mentoring Program<br>Differentiated Instruction<br>Instructional Technology<br>On-Line PD | Data Meetings<br>Grade Level & School Wide PLCs<br>Faculty Meetings<br>MTSS<br>Effective Teaching Strategies<br>Technology Competencies<br>Mini-Sessions<br>MAAP Curriculum<br>Teaching Strategies<br>MECA Conference<br>Specific Subject Area Conferences<br>Advanced Placement Conferences<br>LAMP – Library Conference<br>Counselors Conference<br>MHSAA Conference<br>ACT Training<br>ACT Boot Camps<br>MAAP Boot Camps<br>On-Line PD |

| 15 Dropout Prevention Strategies | School/Grade Level | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **District-wide** | **Primary School** | **Elementary School** | **Middle School** | **High School** |
| **Active Learning** | MTSS<br>Interventions<br>Science Labs<br>Arts<br>Music Programs<br>Physical Education | Field Trips<br>Research Assignments<br>Brain Breaks<br>Individualized on-line instruction | October – Career Month<br>Computer Carts<br>Computer Lab<br>Brain Breaks<br>Move to Learn<br>Flip-Camera Videos<br>Promethean Technology | Computer Lab<br>Music<br>Science Fair<br>Smart Boards<br>Chorus<br>Project Based Learning Activities<br>Promethean Technology | Art<br>Music<br>Real World Experience<br>Science Lab<br>Smart Boards<br>College Visits<br>Career Fair<br>College Fair<br>School-wide Service Learning<br>Honor Societies<br>Service Learning Projects |
| **Educational Technology** | Promethean Boards<br>Streaming Videos<br>Software<br>Internet<br>One-to-one district wide | Accelerated Reader<br>Individualized on-line instruction<br>Promethean Technology<br>Canvas | Accelerated Reader<br>Flip-Camera Videos<br>Promethean Technology<br>Canvas | Promethean Boards<br>Smart Boards<br>Tech Prep<br>Canvas<br>Promethean Technology<br>SAMS | STEM Lite Technology Coordinator<br>Smart Boards<br>Variety of Computers and Technology Equipment<br>Canvas<br>Introduction to Computer Programming |

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

# Appendix B – Proposed District Initiatives

| | Grade Level Addressed (District-wide, Pre-Kinder-garden, 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<br>Education Technology | Increase academic performance<br>Increase graduation rate |
| Proposed Initiative: Positive Behavior Supports Behavior Intervention ist | High School | Increase student attendance and achieve-ment | Principal, Counselors, Teachers, Students, Parents, Community | | Ongoing | Individualized Instruction<br>School/Community Collaboration<br>Family Engagement | Improvement in student attendance and achievement |
| Proposed Initiative: Modified Class Schedules | High School | Meet the 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 |

# 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

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