Dropout Prevention Plan

Petal School District



2026-2027

Dr. Matt Dillon, Superintendent

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Core Values

- A person's potential to learn is limitless.
- All people have intrinsic worth.
- Strength comes from engaging the full diversity of the community.
- Teamwork is essential to the continuous success of an organization.
- Family is the most important influence on the development of the individual.
- People can direct their own future.
- People are influenced more by what others do than what they say.

Cornerstones

- Professional Learning Communities
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Ongoing Formative Assessment
- Strong Instructional Leadership



The mission of the Petal School District is to empower all students with the attitude, knowledge and lifelong learning skills essential to thrive as responsible citizens in an ever-changing global society.

Local Dropout Prevention Team Members -- Final

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Team Leader Email: robert.knight@petalschools.com

NAME	POSITION	AGENCY
Dr. Matt Dillon	Superintendent	Petal School District
Dr. Rob Knight	Asst. Superintendent	Petal School District
Katie Charleville	Director of Special Services	Petal School District
Dr. Tyler Watkins	Principal-Petal High School	Petal School District
Ashley Harvey	Principal-Petal Middle School	Petal School District
Emily Branch	Principal-Petal Primary School	Petal School District
Luke Daniels	Principal-Petal Elementary School	Petal School District
Jennifer Goldman	Principal-Petal Upper Elementary School	Petal School District
C. J. Hendry	Chief of Police-Petal School Police Department	Petal School District
Emily Calcote	Counselor	Petal School District
Rev. Brad Eubank	Pastor and Community Leader	First Baptist Church Petal
Jennifer Carr	Director of Career & Technical Education and Human Resource Director	Petal School District
Jana Perry	Director of The Center for Families and Children	Community
John Morris	Director of Technology	Petal School District

District Data Form

District Name: Petal School District

Graduation Rate: 95 % **Dropout Rate**: 1.3 %

Student Demographic Data

Enrollment by Grade

Grade	Number Enrolled
Pre-Kindergarten	75
Special Education Pre-K	29
Kindergarten	320
Special Education Kindergarten	18
Elementary Self-Contained Special Education	61
Grade 1	310
Grade 2	290
Grade 3	293
Grade 4	298
Grade 5	349
Grade 6	328
Grade 7	323
Grade 8	336
Grade 9	340
Grade 10	295
Grade 11	316
Grade 12	306
Secondary Self-Contained Special Education	30
Total Enrollment	4179

Enrollment by Subgroup

Group Name	Group Number	Group Percent (%)
Female	2018	48.28%
Male	2106	50.39%
Asian/Pacific Islander	49	1.17%
African American	890	21.29%
Hispanic or Latino	349	8.35%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	0.02%
White	2889	69.13%

District Data Summary
(2024-2025)

Petal School District (1000pts)

ELA (95 pts each)		Math (95 pts each)		Other Subjects (47.5 pts each)		Graduation (4-year) (190 pts)		Acceleration (47.5 pts)		CollegeReadiness (47.5 pts)		English Language Progress (50 pts)	
Proficiency	60.7	Proficiency	72.1	Science Proficiency	34.7	Grad Rate	182.0	Participation / Proficiency	37.1	CCR	34.2	Progress to Proficiency	46.6
Growth All Students	69.2	Growth All Students	81.0	U.S. History Proficiency	40.2					ACT Math 22and Reading 22 or English 18			
Growth Lowest Perf	51.4	Growth Lowest Perf	58.9										

Accountability Score	768	Accountability Rating	A

Cut Score	
0	F
489	D
536	C
599	B
668	A

Original	ELA	Math	Science	History
Proficiency	63.9	75.9	73	84.6
Growth - All	72.8	85.3		
Growth - Lowest	54.1	62		

Grad Rate	95.8	
Acc	78.2	39.1
CCR	72	

Petal Primary School

Reading (95 pts each)		Math (95 pts each)		English Language Progress (30 points)	
Proficiency	58.3	Proficiency	72.2		
Growth All Students	63.9	Growth All Students	92.9		
Growth Lowest Performing	47.9	Growth Lowest Performing	78.6		
				Progress to Proficiency	30.0
600 Point Scale	444				
700 Point Scale	518	Accountability Rating	A		

Petal Elementary School (600pts)

Reading (95 pts each)		Math (95 pts each)		English Language Progress (30 points)	
Proficiency	59.7	Proficiency	72.7		
Growth All Students	62.0	Growth All Students	91.6		
Growth Lowest Performing	41.9	Growth Lowest Performing	78.4		
				Progress to Proficiency	24.7
600 Point Scale	**431**				
700 Point Scale	**503**	Accountability Rating	**A**		

Petal Upper Elementary School (700pts)

Reading (95 pts each)		Math (95 pts each)		Science (95 pts)		English Language Progress (35 pts)	
Proficiency	65.7	Proficiency	67.9	Proficiency	73.7		
Growth All Students	72.1	Growth All Students	69.6				
Growth Lowest Performing	44.7	Growth Lowest Performing	42.2				
						Progress to Proficiency	35.0
Accountability Score	**471**	Accountability Rating	**A**				

Petal Middle School (700pts)

Reading (100 pts each)		Math (100 pts each)		Science (100 pts)		English Language Progress (N/A)	
Proficiency	57.8	Proficiency	74.6	Proficiency	67.9		
Growth All Students	67.1	Growth All Students	81.0				
Growth Lowest Performing	56.7	Growth Lowest Performing	53.4				
						Progress to Proficiency	N/A
Accountability Score	459	Accountability Rating	A				

Petal High School (1000 pts)

Eng II (95 pts each)		Algebra 1 (95 pts each)		Other Subjects (45 pts each)		Graduation (4-year) (190 pts)		Acceleration (45 pts)		CCR (45 pts)		English Language Progress (50 pts)	
Proficiency	64.2	Proficiency	81.3	Biology Proficiency	34.8	Grad Rate	182.0	Participation / Proficiency	37.1	CCR	34.2	Progress to Proficiency	26.8
Growth All Students	80.9	Growth All Students	95.0	U.S. History Proficiency	40.2					ACT Math 22and Reading 22 or English 18			
Growth Lowest Perf	67.5	Growth Lowest Perf	90.3										
Accountability Score		834		Accountability Rating			A						

Cut Score	
0	F
510	D
584	C
648	B
754	A

Original	Eng II	Alg 1	Biology	USH
Proficiency	67.6	85.6	73.3	84.6
Growth - All	85.2	100		
Growth - Lowest	71	95		

Grad Rate	95.8	
Acc Part		78.1
Acc Perf		
CCR	72	

	2021 Accountability		2022 Accountability		2023 Accountability		2024 Accountability		2025 Accountability		2026 Accountability	
Enter 9th Grade	Cohort 2016-2017		Cohort 2017-2018		Cohort 2018-2019		Cohort 2019-2020		Cohort 2020-2021		Cohort 2021-2022	
Petal Rank - All	8*		3*		2*		3*		12*			
Petal Rank - SPED	4		4		4		18		17			
	Seniors 2020		Seniors 2021		Seniors 2022		Seniors 2023		Seniors 2024		Seniors 2025	
Subgroup	**N-Count**	**4-Year Grad Rate Petal/MS**	**N-Count**	**4-Year Grad Rate Petal/MS**	**N-Count**	**4-Year Grad Rate Petal/MS**	**N-Count**	**4-Year Grad Rate Petal/MS**	**N-Count**	**4-Year Grad Rate Petal/MS**	**N-Count**	**4-Year Grad Rate Petal/MS**
All Students - District Grad Rate	305	95.1/87.7	267	96.3/88.4	295	98.6/88.9	276	97.8/89.4	287	95.82/89.2	300	95
DropOut Rate	305	3/8.8	267	2.2/8.5	295	0.7/9.0	276	0/8.5	287	1.39/8.5	300	1.3
Black	58	94.8/86.0	46	93.5/87.3	44	95.5/87.9	51	96.1/88.2	53	98.11/87.1	53	92.5
Hispanic	14	100/83.7	22	95.5/85.0	15	100/84.6	14	100/85	19	89.47/86.3	27	85.2
White	223	95.1/89.9	191	96.9/89.7	221	99.1/90.3	196	98/91.1	195	95.9/91.7	205	97.1
Two or More Races					10	100/11.0	13	100/87.8	15	93.33/88.4	11	90.9
Female	145	97.2/91.6	134	97.8/92.0	149	98.7/92.1	146	99.3/92.2	151	98.68/92.2	146	95.2
Male	160	93.1/83.8	133	94.7/84.8	146	98.6/85.8	130	96.2/86.7	136	92.65/86.2	154	94.8
IEP	39	79.5/55.4	38	84.2/59.9	28	89.3/67.1	43	86.4/70	46	80.43/65.2	49	79.6
Econ Dis	160	93.8/85.9	264	96.6/90.0	295	98.6/90.3	135	98.5/87	155	94.19/86.9	160	93.8
Homeless					16	100/25	10	100/72.8	4	*	4	*

Needs Assessment Outcomes

Needs Assessment Areas	Descriptions
Target Group Identified	**STUDENTS:** ● Students not reading on grade level by third grade ● Students retained two times or more in grades 4^{th}-10^{th} ● Students with excessive discipline referrals ● Students with emotional and/or family problems (counselor referrals) ● Students failing one or more end of course assessments ● Students not involved in co/extracurricular clubs, activities, etc.
Data Collection Method Used	● Attendance, grade, and disciplinary reports ● Surveys: Students, staff, parents, community ● Review of test score data: MAAP, ACT, PSAT, ELS (PMS, PUES, PES) ● Common assessments in language arts, science and mathematics ● Early Warning System Data review

Prioritized List of Needs	● Provide a safe and nurturing school/classroom culture that supports student success for all ● Conduct ongoing examination of all data by all stakeholders (retention rates, discipline data, attendance data, survey data, student performance data, teacher observations/evaluation data ● Provide extensive professional development focused on best practices in explicit instruction, differentiated instruction, classroom management, and student/teacher engagement, dropout prevention research
Short Term Goals	● Provide additional counseling supports for students exhibiting social, emotional, or behavioral deficiencies ● Equip classroom teachers with strategies to embed social emotional learning strategies into their daily instructional, management, and classroom environment practices. ● Continue to keep graduation at or above 95%
Long Term Goals	● Build school & classroom climates that support student success for all ● Improve instructional and delivery methods to make lessons more engaging and relevant ● Continue to decrease percentage of chronically absent students
Recommendations for future needs	● Continue to refine the Early Warning System at each building. ● Response to Interventions/Tier spreadsheet reviews (academic/behavior) ● Continue weekly focus on data analysis collected throughout the district ● Increase capacity of school transition teams

Current District Initiatives

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	**Pre-Kindergarten**	**Elementary School**	**Middle School**	**High School**
Systemic Renewal	School Transition Teams New teacher induction program Administrator Retreat Annual Review of Strategic Plan School Improvement plan Professional Learning Communities	Partnerships with all local daycares- Early prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment program Parents as Teachers Excel by 5 Professional Learning Communities	Early prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment program Professional Learning Communities Robotics	Professional Learning Communities Robotics Fine Arts At-Risk Teams "Meet at the Middle" (7th grade only attend first day)	Professional Learning Communities Advanced Placement/ Dual Enrollment Courses Expanded Career Technical Offerings Freshmen First (9th grade students only attend) At-Risk Teams

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	**Pre-Kindergarten**	**Elementary School**	**Middle School**	**High School**
School-Community Collaboration	Center for Families and Children Active PTO District Shared Decision Making Council Social Worker SEMRHI Health Services-School based clinic Partnership with area churches/school adopters	Center for Families and Children Parents as Teachers Excel by 5 School level shared decision making council	Boy Scouts Girl Scouts School level shared decision making council	School level shared decision making council	School level shared decision making council

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	**Pre-Kindergarten**	**Elementary School**	**Middle School**	**High School**
Safe Learning Environment	School Resource Officers at each building School Safety Assessments School Nurses at each school Character Education classes instructed by Counselors Partnership with D.R.E.A.M Hattiesburg/Red Ribbon Week Anonymous texting/ information Handle with Care	Visitor identification/ management system Crisis management plans Behavior Counselor Magnetic locks/door control system Increased video surveillance systems Handle with Care	Visitor identification/ management system Crisis management plans Behavior Counselor Magnetic locks/door control system Increased video surveillance systems Handle with Care	Visitor identification/ management system Crisis management plans Behavior Counselor Magnetic locks/door control system Increased video surveillance systems Handle with Care	Visitor identification/ management system Crisis management plans Behavior Counselor Extra Curricular Drug Screening Magnetic locks/door control system Increased video surveillance systems Student Supply Closet Handle with Care

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	**Pre-Kindergarten**	**Elementary School**	**Middle School**	**High School**
Family Engagement	Center for Families and Children Parents as Teacher program Parent/ Teacher Conferences Title I Parent Meetings HOPE Cards Yearly District Calendar Summer Feeding Program Shared Decision Meetings		Kindergarten Round-Up Family Literacy Night Weekly Videos New Student breakfast	New Student breakfast Weekly Videos Awards Day	Freshmen First/ Staggered start for Freshmen Orientation Monthly Videos New Student breakfast FASFA Workshops Awards Night

Early Childhood Education	District-wide Pre-K Program Child Find Center for Families and Children				

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Early Literacy Development	Center for Families and Children				
Mentoring/Tutoring	Early Warning System Big Brothers/Big Sisters			Peer Tutoring Program in the library	Peer Tutoring Program in Library
Service-Learning	Community Service Projects Interact Club Connect and Care projects United Way Connect and Care Initiative				Petal School District Ambassadors

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Alternative Schooling	Petal Education Center			Online Course offerings/flexibility Group and individual counseling specifically targeted to student needs	Online Course offerings/flexibility Group and individual counseling specifically targeted to student needs
After-School Opportunities	Numerous co/extracurricular activities		Boost activities for enrichment and remediation in math and english		

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	**Pre-Kindergarten**	**Elementary School**	**Middle School**	**High School**
Professional Development	Social Emotional Learning PD Adverse Childhood Experiences PLC Leader Training Addressing the Needs of Students Experiencing Trauma The Jason Foundation: Preventing Youth Suicide	Addressing the needs of children living in poverty Early Learning, Developmental Stages of Children, Interventions to address specific deficits Instructional Strategies & Social/Emotional Standards Parent, Family, Community, & School Partnerships, & the Action Learning Project The Jason Foundation: Preventing Youth Suicide	De-escalation, understanding poverty, resilience NWEA-Use of Data, Addressing Struggling Learners Student Health Strategies to help ADHD students be successful - social/emotional behavioral support. Behavioral interventions/ strategies The Jason Foundation: Preventing Youth Suicide	Social Emotional Development Strategies for ELL students The Jason Foundation: Preventing Youth Suicide	Social Emotional Development Creating more opportunities for more student-centered instruction The Jason Foundation: Preventing Youth Suicide

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	**Pre-Kindergarten**	**Elementary School**	**Middle School**	**High School**
Educational Technology	Teacher Training Integrated Technology in the Classroom 2:1 Chromebook Implementation		Teacher Training Integrated Technology in the Classroom 2:1 Chromebook Implementation	Teacher Training Integrated Technology in the Classroom 1:1 Chromebook Implementation	Teacher Training Integrated Technology in the Classroom 1:1 Chromebook Implementation
Individualized Instruction	IEP's Gifted Classes Differentiated Instruction Professional Learning Communities		Staggered School Opening Google Classroom	7th Grade Only School Opening Google Classroom Canvas Platform	Freshman First School Opening Google Classroom Advanced Placement/Dual Enrollment courses Edgenuity Canvas Platform

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District-wide	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Career & Technical Education (CTE)			4th Grade CTE Tour	Cyber Foundations Computer Science and Engineering	CTE Career Fair/Recruitment Business & Marketing I/II Construction Technology I /II Culinary Arts I/II Digital Media Technology I/II/III Family Dynamics/Child Development Information Technology I/II Law and Public Safety I/II Polymer Science I/II Teacher Academy I/II Sports Medicine I/II

Proposed District Initiatives (Action Plan)

Action Step	Start Date	Completion Date	Responsible Party	Support & Resources
Closing achievement gaps	Aug 2020	Ongoing	Building Level Administration, TST, Interventionists, Inclusion teachers, Classroom teachers,	Continued Professional Development, Spiral skills through reading meeting, Modeling writing for pod colleagues and students, Incorporate vocabulary strategies with mentor texts during whole group and small group instruction
Increase social emotional learning in academic instruction	Aug 2019	Ongoing	All teachers/staff/admin	Continued Professional Development, Increase of number of behavioral counselors
Increase capacity/expand Early Warning System Indicators.	Aug 2019	Ongoing	Interventionists, Admin, TST	Early Warning System Guidance documents
Reducing the retention rates in grades kindergarten, first and second.	Aug 2020	Ongoing	Building administration, TST, Interventionists, Special Services Department, Classroom teachers	Monitor progress of application of early literacy skills, continue to use and develop the literacy continuum by participating in book discussions, analyzing Star Early reports, and furthering our understanding of the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards

Targeting subgroups that need additional assistance to meet graduation requirements.	July 2020	Ongoing	Building administration, TST, Interventionists, Special Services Department, Classroom teachers, ESL Support Personnel	English Language Learners represent a population that are not meeting proficiency in benchmark assessments. Identify gaps in performance, barriers to graduation, etc. Scaffold units of instruction to overcome language barrier and high Lexile level texts.
Developing dropout recovery initiatives.	July 2020	Ongoing	Counselors, High School Administration, TST, Interventionists, Career & Technical Supervisor and Staff,	Credit recovery options, Alternative settings for coursework to meet potential work schedules, New Learning Resources Partnership, Distance Learning, Connect with Career & Technical Education opportunities (High school and Post-secondary)
Addressing how students will transition to the home school district from the juvenile detention centers.	July 2020	Ongoing	Behavior Counselors, School Counselor, Classroom teachers, Building level Administration	Transition plan in place when a student is preparing to return to the home school environment, for social-emotional, and behavioral support. Individual student goals, transition plan, meetings with case managers, assigned mentors, parental contact, etc. Hire a transition/at-risk coordinator to help with transitions from alternative school and juvenile centers.

District Initiatives

Early Warning System (identification of at risk students)
Identification of at-risk students is a crucial corner piece of the Petal School District's Dropout Prevention and Recovery Plan. At-Risk students K-12 are identified throughout the school year. Interventions are planned and coordinated through the school principal, school counselor, classroom teachers, school intervention specialist, and district personnel.

Transition Teams
Transition teams are composed of teachers in each building who work collaboratively to lessen the impact of transitioning to a new school building within our district. They meet regularly to address several key points of smooth transitions for all students:

- What is working well with content alignment/ What challenges do we face with content alignment
- What is working well with operations/ What challenges do we face with operations
- What is working well with our “hand-off” of kids/ What challenges do we face with the “hand-off” of kids

Student Attendance
To improve student attendance at all schools throughout the district. This will improve the district's average daily attendance as well as student's grades, test scores and attitudes.

Listed below are the programs offered in the district that are focusing on student attendance:

- School Attendance Officer
- Attendance Support Plans
- Mentors
- Various incentive programs have been developed at all schools for encouragement of attendance.