

Policy IDA: Education Plan / Program Improvement

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 05/22/2000 | **Last Revised Date:** 10/14/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/14/2024

EDUCATION PLAN / PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of the educational plan is to identify a school district's strengths, needs, and goals and then to outline the strategies for implementing changes and improvements.

PARTICIPANTS

The plan is jointly developed by school district personnel, the community, and representation from the local school board. This participation is documented.

SOURCES OF INPUT

Each school district establishes structures which solicit regular input of community citizens, students, and staff regarding the policies, procedures, programs, and operation of the school district. The school board considers such input as the plan is developed.

DATA SOURCES

The plan is based upon but not limited to:

1. A survey which reflects pupil, faculty, and community attitudes or opinions concerning the district and/or its individual school administration(s) and programs.
2. An outline of the district's instructional management system which indicates how the curriculum is aligned from subject to subject and from grade to grade.
3. An analysis of student achievement data, with emphasis on the evaluation component of the instructional management system.
4. The school district's improvement plan (where applicable) which is designed to address cited accreditation deficiencies. A copy of the approved improvement plan will be included in the educational plan, along with updated information pertaining to the district's compliance with accreditation standards.
5. Student, staff, and community demographic data.
6. A description of each school's individual program strengths, needs, and goals.

CONTENT

The content of the educational plan includes identified goals, the means of achieving these goals, and the timeliness required. The educational plan also includes but is not limited to:

1. A written mission statement which reflects the purpose of the educational program and the ways the mission will affect district operations.
2. A description specifying how student achievement will be advanced in the district over the time period of the plan.
3. The role each school will play in the district's overall educational plan.

NOTE: Supplementary documents (data sources) used to identify strengths, needs, and goals of the district are not required as a part of the plan but must be available for review.

ANNUAL APPROVAL/REVISION PROCESS

The school board evaluates, revises, and approves the plan on an annual basis. As part of the strategic planning process, the plan is updated yearly. The annual revision includes a review of the district's educational status and specific actions that will be implemented to improve the quality of educational programs.

CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

1. The educational plan is made available for review upon request to any citizen living within the district and to officials in the State Department of Education.
2. Once each academic year, the local school board provides and makes available to media with coverage in the general area of the school district a report to the public outlining progress in implementing the educational plan and identifying specific needs and plans to address needs.
3. Once each academic year, the school board also holds a public meeting (which may be part of a regular school board meeting) to review and discuss the progress made toward meeting the goals and timeliness of its educational plan. Such meeting is publicized for at least two weeks prior to the meeting, including publication in a newspaper with major circulation in the school district.

ELEMENTARY (GRADES K-8)

The Jackson County School District believes students should have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of organized learning experiences designed to prepare them to be productive, informed, and creative citizens, workers and leaders. Therefore, the following basic program of instruction shall be followed.

- Each basic curriculum of each elementary or middle school consists of reading, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and the arts. Instruction shall be based upon a written instructional management system addressing the competencies required in the curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education, and shall be conducted by properly certified and endorsed staff.
- In grades (K-8), instruction in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and the arts will be offered.
- The scheduled academic instructional time shall be protected from undue interruption and delays.
- The elementary program shall offer instruction in the following areas: electives, physical education, library and computer education.
- The general curriculum will include the limited content areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts (English).

SECONDARY (GRADES 9-12)

Secondary schools shall offer a basic curriculum that provides the required graduation courses for students choosing a general education program and for students choosing a college-preparatory program. Courses allowed to count for graduation credit shall meet the requirements of the Commission on School Accreditation or listed in the Approved Courses for Secondary Schools in Mississippi.

The Jackson County School District shall provide students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of organized learning experiences designed to prepare them to be productive, informed and creative citizens, workers and leaders.

The general curriculum will include the content areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts (English).

Secondary schools shall include curriculum alternative offerings in language arts and mathematics for students who need assistance in mastering the course objectives/competencies.

Therefore:

1. Each student graduating from the Jackson County School District shall have earned the Carnegie units as outlined in the High School Graduation Policy IHF, mastered the objectives/competencies in the curriculum frameworks and met criteria set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education.
2. Each student graduating from the Jackson County School District shall have earned at least two (2) of the last four (4) Carnegie units from said school.

PUPIL-TEACHER RATION

In order to ensure that students have the opportunity to master the learning objectives/competencies at all instructional levels, the pupil-teacher ratios shall not exceed:

1. Twenty-seven (27) to one (1) in Kindergarten classes with an assistant;
2. Twenty-seven (27) to one (1) in classrooms serving grades one through four unless approved by the State Board of Education;
3. Thirty (30) to one (1) in self-contained classes serving grades five through eight; and
4. Thirty-three (33) to one (1) in departmentalized academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150.

The total number of students taught by an individual teacher in academic core subjects at any time during the school year shall not exceed 150.

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

The policy of the Jackson County School District is to allocate instructional time which will provide students the opportunity to master specific objectives/competencies at all academic levels.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are Standards 3 and 9.
