

Poplarville School District

Dropout Prevention Plan

2025-2026



Mission

The mission of the Poplarville School District is to serve all students by providing a high-quality education in a safe learning environment.

Parameters

Align all programs to the state and district strategic plan
Identify and utilize every available resource
Make data-driven decisions

Beliefs

1. Everyone (students, staff, families, community) plays a vital role in the growth and development of students.
2. All learning is engaging, meaningful, and challenging to everyone.
3. The district serves as a model of integrity and ethical behavior.
4. High expectations yield higher achievement.
5. Everyone has equal value.
6. Patriotism to America is our duty as citizens.

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Board Summary

Dropout prevention is a major concern for the Poplarville School District, the State of Mississippi, and the Nation. In response to this concern, the Poplarville School District implemented its Dropout Prevention Plan. The latest published results for the current

plan as implemented cite a graduation rate for Poplarville School District in SY 2024 of 94% and a dropout rate of 6%.

Recent legislation requires a Mississippi school district with a graduation rate of 85% or below to develop a dropout prevention/graduation completion plan each year for submission to MDE for approval. Since Poplarville has a higher graduation rate, it is not required to submit a new plan to MDE; however, we are asking for your approval to implement the following plan in SY 2025-26 which addresses identified dropout indicators of concern for our district.

The following plan addresses dropout indicators of concern for our district and will promote the following initiatives:

**PSD
Where Students Come to Thrive!**

Present - Encourages attendance in school as a critical dropout prevention strategy.
Excellence-Promotes academic success of all students;
Engagement-Ensures a highly qualified staff that understands and addresses the diverse needs of our students to make learning engaging for all;
Respect-Provide a safe and healthy school climate with a supportive respectful atmosphere that encourages students to stay in school;
Home– Motivates parents, home community, and schools to support the efforts of our students;

Students, parents, staff, and community are invited to actively participate in our dropout prevention initiative as we strive to decrease the number of students who dropout and increase the number of students who graduate.

Local Dropout Prevention Team Members

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Jon Will	Superintendent	Team Leader
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Jenny Story	Federal Programs Director	Team Leader
Jonathan Ray	Principal	Poplarville High School
Keri Smith	CTE Director	Poplarville High School
Chris Teal	Principal	Middle School of Poplarville
Judson Necaize	Principal	Poplarville Upper Elementary
Sonya Garrett	Principal	Poplarville Lower Elementary
Chris Dewease	Assistant Principal	Poplarville High School
Emily Smith	Counselor	Poplarville High School
Michele Lee	Assistant Principal	Poplarville Upper Elementary
Nicole McCardle	Assistant Principal	Poplarville Lower Elementary
Jay Beech	Athletic Director	Poplarville High School
Damon Carr	SRO	PSD
Abbi Vaughn	Student	Poplarville High School
Makaylyn Delaune	Student	Poplarville High School
Janel Blakney	Community Leader	City Of Poplarville
Rossie Creel	Community Leader	City of Poplarville
Charrisa Connerly	Parent	PSD
Cherie Barber	Parent	PSD
Jessica Peterson	Parent	PSD

Poplarville School District District Assurances

This Dropout Prevention Plan provides goals, activities and services necessary to meet the three overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan: 1) Increasing the state graduation rate; 2) reduce the state dropout rate; and 3) increasing attendance rate (reducing the truancy rate)

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 will endorse and implement the Fifteen (15) Effective Strategies to promote a reduction in the dropout 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 address how students will transition to the home school district from the juvenile detention centers.

I hereby certify that our school district will evaluate our district dropout prevention plan on an annual basis to determine 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.

_____	_____
Director of Curriculum and Instruction	Date
_____	_____
Superintendent	Date
_____	_____
Board President	Date

Proposed District Objectives

Proposed Objective	Grade Level Addressed	Purpose or Goal	Who is Involved	Proposed Cost	Timeline	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
The first step is to be present-Encourages attendance in school as a critical dropout prevention strategy	District Wide	Comparing monthly attendance rates, the Poplarville School District will increase the monthly attendance rate at each	DOP Team Leader School Attendance Officer	Ongoing	Continue Implementation	Systemic Renewal School Community Collaboration	Student attendance rates will increase; therefore, their instructional time will increase thus providing opportunity for greater academic success. Graduation rates will increase and dropout

		<p>school site to 97% by maintaining a uniform district-wide attendance initiative.</p> <p>PSD will continue to decrease the truancy rate by continuing a uniform district-wide attendance initiative.</p>	<p>School Principals</p> <p>School Attendance Clerks</p> <p>Staff</p>			Family Engagement	rates will decline.
Proposed Objective	Grade Level Addressed	Purpose or Goal	Who is Involved	Proposed Cost	Timeline	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
Home– Motivates parents, home community, and schools to support the efforts of our students	District Wide	In order to provide a positive school climate that promotes parent and community involvement, the PSD will sponsor monthly parent meetings each school year. A minimum of two positive parent contacts per pupil will be required as baseline data is established. Two community meetings will also be held with interested stakeholders.	<p>Parent coordinator</p> <p>School/ Home Liaison</p> <p>Parent Center Coordinator</p> <p>School DOP Team Leaders</p> <p>District DOP Leader</p> <p>School Administrators</p> <p>District Teachers and Staff</p> <p>DOP Team Parents and Community Reps</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>School Community Collaboration</p> <p>Safe Learning Environment</p> <p>Family Engagement</p> <p>Early Childhood Education</p> <p>Early Literacy Development</p> <p>Career and Technical Education</p> <p>Credit Recovery (17-21)</p>	Students will receive intrinsic and extrinsic motivation and support from parents and community to have Hornet PRIDE and to achieve and stay in school.
Proposed Objective	Grade Level Addressed	Purpose or Goal	Who is Involved	Proposed Cost	Timeline	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
Engagement- Ensures a highly qualified staff that understands and addresses the diverse needs of our students to make learning engaging for all	District Wide	The PSD will increase the retention rate of staff through quality professional development and newly developed personnel initiatives. PSD will actively	<p>Professional Development Coordinators</p> <p>School Administrators</p> <p>Academic Coaches</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>CTE</p> <p>Individualized</p>	Students will experience learning under the direction of highly qualified teachers who deliver instruction that is appropriate for the multiple intelligences of our diverse learners. Instructional experiences that meet students' needs will

		<p>participate in at least 3 MDE and university job fairs each year.</p> <p>100% of the PSD staff will be trained in the identification of at-risk students, racial diversity, gender diversity, and differentiated instruction.</p>	<p>PSD Faculty and Staff</p> <p>New Teachers and their mentors</p>			<p>Instruction</p> <p>Safe Learning Environment</p> <p>Virtual Learning Training</p>	provide more opportunities for student success.
Proposed Objective	Grade Level Addressed	Purpose or Goal	Who is Involved	Proposed Cost	Timeline	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
<p>Respect- Provide a safe and healthy school climate with a supportive respectful atmosphere that encourages students to stay in school</p>	District Wide	<p>PSD will continue to decrease the unduplicated discipline referral rate in the district through the revision of the current district-wide discipline plan and newly implemented initiatives.</p> <p>The PSD will continue to implement character education instruction, abstinence, bullying, and safe and drug-free school instruction in health classes for school year</p> <p>Health classes will be implemented according to MDE guidelines.</p>	<p>School Resource Officers</p> <p>School NursesSchool Principals</p> <p>Health Teachers</p> <p>District Faculty and Staff</p> <p>Parents and Community</p> <p>Students</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>School Community Collaboration</p> <p>Safe Learning Environment</p> <p>Mentor/Tutors</p> <p>Service Learning</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Active Learning</p> <p>Individualized Instruction</p> <p>Juvenile Transition from Detention Centers</p>	<p>Student Discipline Referrals will decrease.</p> <p>Students will be active participants in ensuring a safe and healthy PSD school climate.</p>
Proposed Objective	Grade Level Addressed	Purpose or Goal	Who is Involved	Proposed Cost	Timeline	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
<p>Excellence- Promotes academic success of all students</p>		<p>The PSD will reduce the identification rate of students to SPED through response to interventions.</p>	<p>Graduation Coach</p> <p>Academic Coaches</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>Early Childhood</p>	<p>Students will succeed academically with fewer students being referred to Special Education.</p> <p>Fewer students will be behind in their</p>

		<p>With entering freshman 2 or more years behind, 100% of these students will be identified and required to participate in Project PRIDE.</p> <p>Realizing the need for a district wide balanced curriculum, PSD will develop a plan vertically and horizontally aligned to the MDE frameworks. Full classroom implementation will be required. Career Pathways Diploma will be implemented.</p>	<p>Interventionists</p> <p>Principals</p> <p>Mentors/Tutors</p> <p>Classroom Teachers</p> <p>Coordinators</p>			<p>Education</p> <p>Early Literacy Development</p> <p>Retention Rate Monitoring</p> <p>Mentoring/Tutoring</p> <p>Subgroup identification</p> <p>Alternative Schooling</p> <p>After School Opportunities</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Active Learning</p> <p>Individualized Instruction</p> <p>Service Learning</p> <p>CTE</p>	academic progress.
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Current Strategies

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School / Grade Level				
	District-wide	Pre-K	Elementary	Middle	High
Systemic Renewal	<p>Strategic Planning</p> <p>College and Career Readiness Standards</p> <p>PBIS</p> <p>PLCs</p> <p>DIT</p>	Early Prevention Screening	<p>Early Prevention Screening</p> <p>Benchmark Testing</p> <p>SIT</p> <p>PLCs</p> <p>Leadership Team</p> <p>Retention Rate Reduction for K-2</p>	<p>PBIS Program - Renaissance</p> <p>Benchmark Testing</p> <p>In-school tutoring</p> <p>PLCs</p> <p>SIT</p> <p>Teacher</p>	<p>AP Courses</p> <p>Dual Enrollment Courses</p> <p>SACS accreditation</p>

	<p>Federal Programs</p> <p>New Teacher Induction Program</p> <p>Interactive Learning</p> <p>Three Tier Model</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Balanced Curriculum</p> <p>Celebration Activities</p> <p>Dyslexia Program</p> <p>District Calendar</p>			Advisory Council	
School-Community Collaboration	<p>Parent Community Connections</p> <p>Federal Programs</p> <p>Three Tier Model</p> <p>Celebration Activities</p> <p>PTO</p> <p>Awards Programs</p>	<p>Preschool Referral/Screening Program</p> <p>Special Needs Pre-K</p> <p>Excel by 5</p>	Excel by 5 School Performances	Veteran's Day Program	<p>Advisory Committees for all CTE Programs</p> <p>Work-Based Learning connections with local business/industry</p> <p>Business partnerships for CTE Student Organizations</p>
Safe Learning Environments	<p>Crisis Management Plan</p> <p>District Discipline Plan</p> <p>School Discipline Plan</p> <p>PBIS Plan</p> <p>Social Worker</p> <p>School Resource Officer</p>		<p>Poplarville Fire Dept.</p> <p>Behavioral Specialist</p> <p>School Nurse</p>	<p>Behavioral Specialist</p> <p>School Nurse</p> <p>Advisory Classes</p> <p>SRO</p>	<p>MDE directed Safety Tests for all CTE students prior to lab-based projects.</p> <p>Monthly Safety Walk throughs</p> <p>Juvenile Detention Entry</p>

Family Engagement	Homeless Liaison Foster Care Liaison PTO District Website Social Media SchoolStatus Active Parent	Individual Education Program Meetings Family Nights Coffee Talks Title 1 - Open House	Family Nights Coffee Talks Title 1 - Open House Get Acquainted Day Parent's Night Out Parent's Day Out Lunch with a Loved One Awards Day Grade Level Productions Book Fairs	Family Nights Coffee Talks Title 1 Annual Meeting - formerly known as Open House Get Acquainted Day Awards Day 6th Grade Academy Parent/Team/Student Conference Nights Extracurricular productions Book Fairs	Freshmen Orientation CTE Student Organization Officer Induction ceremonies CTE Newsletters - Quarterly
Early Childhood Education	Parent and Community Connections	Excel by 5 Preschool Referral and Screening Program Special Needs Pre-K Program	Excel by 5 Speech Services for Children 3-5 Kindergarten Jumpstart (Summer Camp)		
Early Literacy Development	Three Tier Model Balanced Curriculum Dyslexia Program	Centers	MKAS IRPs Centers		
Mentor / Tutoring	Three Tier Model New Teacher Mentoring Program		At Risk Tutoring	In school tutoring After School Tutoring Advisory Class	Service Learning for Seniors Credit Recovery (17-21)
Service- Learning	Backpack Buddies		Christmas Assistance	Veterans Day Program	Service Learning for Seniors
Alternative School	Homebound Program PRC Agreement			Alternative School	Alternative School Dual Enrollment Opportunities

	PBIS Social Worker				Credit Recovery
After- School Opportunities	Parent and Community Connection		Family Nights	Family Nights Extracurricular activities Clubs (Art club, Student Council, Strategy Club, Book Club, etc.)	After school Credit Recovery
Professional Development	New Teacher Induction Professional Development Plan i-Ready Training College and Career Readiness Standards		Instructional Coaches Tech Dept. SRO	Instructional Coaches	MS-ACTE Summer Conference
Active Learning	Three Tier Model Balances Curriculum Celebration Activities PLCs	Centers Kinesthetic Learning	Computer Labs Centers Kinesthetic Learning	Computer Labs Performance based activities Kinesthetic Learning	Lab Based Classes ACT Prep
Educational Technology	Interactive Learning i-Ready Google Classroom Virtual Learning			CDC - ICT II i-Ready Google Classroom	CDC Dual Enrollment Online
Individualized Instruction	Three Tier Model Subgroup Support	Centers	Centers	Stations i-Ready	AP Courses Dual Enrollment CTE

	Balanced Curriculum i-Ready				
Career and Technical Education				CDC classes	Career Development Center MS Works

Description of Specific Required Strategies Within the Plan

Strategy: Reduce retention rates in kindergarten, first, and second.

Under the district's initiative for dropout prevention, Excellence-Promotes academic success of all students, MTSS is used to provide targeted support for all students in the area of behavior and academics. The district's MTSS interventionist implements a systematic approach to identifying students and making sure systems are in place to support students. Student data is used to identify students, monitor progress, and to determine appropriate interventions.

Strategy: Target subgroups that need additional assistance to meet graduation requirements.

At risk students are identified and provided additional support at all grade levels. Under the district's initiative for dropout prevention, Excellence-Promotes academic success of all students, Poplarville School District utilized a system of support through the MTSS. Benchmark assessments are given to all students in core subject areas. Analyzation of these assessments helps to identify subgroups and individual students. A team approach is used to identify students, plan for interventions, and ensure that instruction is delivered in a consistent manner. Individual data, class data, grade-level data, and school data is used to make further informed decisions regarding instruction.

Strategy: Develop dropout recovery initiatives that focus on students age seventeen through twenty-one, who have dropped out of school.

The initiative, Home— Motivates parents, home community, and schools to support the efforts of our students, focuses on students who are identified as potential dropouts. An analysis of student data such as attendance, behavior, age and grade-placement and test scores are used to identify these students.

This initiative focuses on providing the student with a support team who can help identify the resources they need in order to obtain a high school diploma.

Strategy: Address how students will transition to home school district from the juvenile detention centers.

The district's initiative, Respect-Provide a safe and healthy school climate with a supportive respectful atmosphere that encourages students to stay in school, has a goal of making sure all students have the opportunity to succeed academically in a safe environment. The Poplarville School District will follow state policy for transitioning students from detention centers to their home school.

Counselors are available at each school to devise plans for the student with the support of the parent, student, MTSS interventionist, administration, and teachers. Under this initiative many resources, opportunities, and systems of support are utilized.

These required strategies are part of the district's initiatives listed and described below.

The PSD Dropout Plan addresses dropout indicators of concern for our district and will promote the following initiatives:

**PSD
Where Students Come to Thrive!**

Present - Encourages attendance in school as a critical dropout prevention strategy.
Excellence-Promotes academic success of all students;
Engagement-Ensures a highly qualified staff that understands and addresses the diverse needs of our students to make learning engaging for all;
Respect-Provide a safe and healthy school climate with a supportive respectful atmosphere that encourages students to stay in school;
Home– Motivates parents, home community, and schools to support the efforts of our students;

Evaluating Effectiveness

Current/ Proposed Initiative	Performance Indicators	Source of Data for Evaluation	Baseline Data	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Goal Met? Yes or No
The first step is to be Present. Encourages attendance in school as a critical dropout prevention strategy	Increased attendance rates Decreased truancy rate	Monthly school and district MSIS attendance reports School and district MSIS attendance report Individual student attendance reports Attendance Clerk Documentation School Attendance Officers Records Celebration Records Respondent Surveys	Monthly school and district attendance rate increase as compared to SY 20019-20	Systemic Renewal School Community collaboration Family Engagement	
Home– Motivates parents, home community, and schools to support the efforts of our students	Parent Meetings Held Positive Parent Contacts made for each student Community Meetings held Credit recovery date for at risk students (17-21)	Agendas and sign in sheets Records of Announcements, Media Releases, Newsletters, Invitations	Minimum # of Monthly Parent Meetings Minimum of 2 Positive Parent Contacts per student Minimum of 2 Community Meetings	Systemic Renewal School Community Collaboration Safe Learning Environment Family Engagement Early Childhood Education Early Literacy Development CTE	

Engagement-Ensures a highly qualified staff that understands and addresses the diverse needs of our students to make learning engaging for all	<p>Retention of HQ Staff</p> <p>Participation in 3 job fairs each year</p> <p>100% of staff trained in identification of at-risk students, racial diversity, gender diversity, and differentiated instruction.</p> <p>100% of staff effectively implementing quality instruction appropriate to be aforementioned identified areas of need</p>	<p>Professional Development Agendas and Sign in Sheets</p> <p>Teacher Evaluation Results</p> <p>Review of Employment Data each year</p> <p>Travel Vouchers for Job Fairs</p> <p>Staff Surveys</p> <p>Students, parents, community surveys</p>	Documentation Review	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>CTE</p> <p>Individualized Instruction</p> <p>Safe Learning Environment</p>	
Respect-Provide a safe and healthy school climate with a supportive respectful atmosphere that encourages students to stay in school	<p>Decrease Discipline Referrals</p> <p>Implementation of Character Education Program</p> <p>Juvenile detention Center Transition</p>	<p>SAMS7 and MSIS Data</p> <p>Review of Lesson Plans</p> <p>Respondent Surveys</p>	<p>Reduction of Discipline Referrals</p> <p>Implementation of character education in classes</p>	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>Safe Learning Environment</p> <p>School and Community Collaborations</p> <p>Mentoring/Tutoring</p> <p>Service Learning</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Active Learning</p> <p>Individualized Instruction</p>	
Excellence-Promotes academic success of all students	<p>Reduction in identification rate of males to response to interventions</p> <p>Entering 9th graders will be served through Project PRIDE</p>	<p>Tier Documentation</p> <p>SAMS7 and MSIS Data</p> <p>Curriculum Documents</p>	<p>RTI rate of males will be reduced.</p> <p>100% of entering freshmen who are 2 or more years behind will be identified and served through Project Excellence.</p>	<p>Systemic Renewal</p> <p>Early Childhood Education</p> <p>Early Literacy Development</p> <p>Mentoring/Tutoring</p>	

	<p>An aligned balanced curriculum is implemented</p> <p>Reduced retention Rates for K-2 Students</p> <p>Monitoring of all subgroups in meeting graduation requirements</p>	<p>Lesson Plans</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Staff and Principal Evaluation Results</p> <p>Anecdotal Records</p>	<p>100% of classroom teachers will implement a balanced curriculum.</p>	<p>Alternative Schooling</p> <p>After School Opportunities</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Active Learning</p> <p>Individualized Instruction</p> <p>Service Learning</p> <p>CTE</p>	
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Summary Data Used