

DROPOUT PREVENTION & RESTRUCTURING PLAN

2023-2024



Board Approved

JUL 20 2023

**Clarksdale Municipal
School District**

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VISION

Our vision is a Clarksdale Municipal School District that empowers students by creating key community partnerships and offering a rigorous academic program that addresses the diverse needs of every scholar.

MISSION

We exist to provide a comprehensive educational program that leverages technology to address our scholars' academic, career, and social needs, equipping them for success in a diverse and evolving world.

CORE VALUES

Integrity-emphasizing honesty and exhibiting strong moral principles

Respect-accepting others despite their differences, building relationships that increase trust, safety, and wellbeing

Individuality-celebrating the intrinsic worth of each individual

Empowerment-growing in strength and confidence to make a positive difference in one's own life and to contribute to a larger good

Innovation-choosing to do things differently to create value for our students, staff, families, and community

Wellness-prioritizing decisions that have a positive effect on the physical, mental, and emotional health of our stakeholders

GOALS

Goal 1: Improve student achievement results as reported by state and other standardized test results to garner a performance rating of "C" or better.

Goal 2: Maintain a safe and orderly school environment to promote success and wellness.

Goal 3: Promote efficient and effective fiscal accountability using a needs-based approach while expanding resources that support student achievement.

Goal 4: Increase community collaboration through parental involvement and strategic partnerships.

Goals & Objectives

State law requires each school district to develop and implement an annual dropout prevention plan and each high school with a graduation rate below 85% to develop a restructuring plan. Policy and state law require that CMSD plan includes strategies for:

- Reducing the retention rates in grades kindergarten, first and second.
- Targeting subgroups that need additional assistance to meet graduation requirements.
- Developing dropout recovery initiatives that focus on students age seventeen (17) through twenty-one (21), who dropped out of school (i.e., Mississippi Works). Addressing how students will transition to the home school district from the juvenile detention centers.

The Clarksdale Municipal School District's Dropout Prevention Plan includes goals adopted by the Mississippi Board of Education. Goal 2 is *Every Student Graduates from High School Ready for College and Career*.

CMSD uses the Early Warning System indicators to identify students most at-risk of dropping out or in danger of not graduating from high school.

- High chronic absenteeism
- Repeated/High office referrals
- Course failures/not performing at a C or better in core subjects
- Not on grade level (two or more grade levels behind peers)

Dropout Prevention & Restructuring Team

Dr. Toya Matthews, Superintendent
Adrienne Hudson, Chief Academic Officer
Herbert Smith, Chief Strategy Officer
Stephanye Moton, Special Services Director
Dr. Kristi Harris, Federal Programs Director
David Kelly, High School Principal
Triccia Hudson, CTE Director
Shawanda Shaw, Middle School Principal
Nancy Newson, Counselor
Donna McDougal, Counselor
Jasheba Baltimore, Counselor
Erma Robinson, Social Worker
Shelia Ranson-Jenkins, Truancy Officer

Statement of Assurance

On behalf of the Clarksdale Municipal School District, I hereby submit a local Dropout Prevention and Restructuring Plan to provide goals, activities, and services necessary to meet the three overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan: (1) Increasing the state graduation rate to 85% by 2021-2022; (2) reduce the district dropout rate by 5% by 2021-2022; and (3) reducing the truancy rate by 5% by 2021-2022.

I hereby certify that the information contained in this plan follows 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 considered relevant, scientifically based research strategies, and best practices indicating services most effective in preventing dropouts; if we focused on students in the earlier 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 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 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.

Dropout Prevention & Restructuring Team Leader:

Name: Herbert Smith

Title: Chief Strategy Officer


Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1088

Telephone #: 662-627-8500


Fax #: 662.351.0531

District Superintendent: Dr. Toya Matthews


Signature


Date

Team Leader: Herbert Smith


Signature


Date

High School Dropout Prevention Team Leader: David Kelly

David Kelly 8/14/23
Signature Date

Middle School Dropout Prevention Team Leader: Shawanda Shaw

Shawanda Shaw August 11, 2023
Signature Date

School Board Chair: Dr. Zedric K. Clayton

[Signature] _____
78EFE17D733E4C0... Signature Date

Board Approval Date: July 20, 2023

District Profile & Overview

The Clarksdale Municipal School District is located in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Students in Clarksdale Municipal School District attend grades PK-12 and can receive a broad range of services. The CMSD participates in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP), which means that 100% of CMSD students receive free lunch. We have three magnet schools: Booker T. Washington International Studies Magnet Elementary School, an International Baccalaureate World School; Kirkpatrick Health and Medical Science Elementary; and Oakhurst Intermediate Academy, which has a multidisciplinary focus of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), plus visual and performing arts, international studies, and language immersion. Another magnet school – George H. Oliver Elementary – focuses on the visual and performing arts. Additionally, we have one middle School-W.A. Higgins, one 9th Grade Academy-J.W. Stampley, one high school-Clarksdale High School, and one career and technical education center- Carl Keen Career & Technical Education Center.

Within the Clarksdale Municipal School District, as reported by the *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate* from the US Census Bureau, about 51.7% of children ages 5-17 live in poverty-related households.

Enrollment Data					
May 2023					
	Elementary School (Pre-k-4 th)	Intermediate School (5 th & 6 th Grade)	Middle School (7 th & 8 th)	9 th Grade Academ y (9 th)	High School (10 th - 12 th)
Number of Schools	4	1	1	1	1
Cumulative Enrollment	848	296	374	170	455
Counselor/Student Ratio	1:424	1:296	1:374	1:170	1:227

Student Demographic Data 2022-2023			Staff Demographic Data Teachers & Administrators 2022-2023		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Female	1098	51.23%	Female	264	71.54%

Male	1049	48.95%	Male	105	28.45%
Asian	4	0.18%	Asian	3	0.81%
Black	2069	96.54%	Black	309	83.74%
Hispanic	27	1.25%	Hispanic	4	1.08%
Pacific Islander	0	0	Pacific Islander		
Two or More Races	11	0.51%	Two or More Races		
White	32	1.49%	White	53	14.36%
Native American	0	0	Native American		

Student Data						
2022-2023						
Student Enrollment	2143	Graduation Rate	87.7%	Dropout Rate	11.7%	
Chronic Absenteeism Rate	51.97 %	Number of Alternative Placement Students	38			

	Graduation Rate		
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Clarksdale High School	82.8%	82.8%	87.7%

	Dropout Rate		
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Clarksdale High School	10.4%	16.6%	11.7%

**Mississippi Academic Assessment Program
Performance Level Results
Spring 2022**

English II						
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Test-Takers
Clarksdale High School	13	27	42	15	5	143
State	7.0	21	32	27	13	24,921

U.S. History						
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Test-Takers
Clarksdale High School	5	16	36	41	6	135
State	1	8.1	21.6	45.9	23.4	28,622

Algebra I						
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Test-Takers
Clarksdale High School	5	5	17	65	17	46
State	5	7	30	51	12	26,321

Biology						
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Test-Takers
Clarksdale High School	5	16	19	41	20	70
State	10.1	11.3	18.9	37.4	22.3	31,883

Needs Assessment Outcomes

Needs Assessment Areas	Description
Target Group Identified	Students, Staff, Parents, and Community
Data Collection Methods Used	Needs assessment survey for students, feedback from parents, teachers, and administrators.
Prioritized List of Needs	<p>To provide reading and mathematics support to identified students in the early grades</p> <p>To provide stronger connections between the school and home</p> <p>To provide relevant professional development for teachers</p> <p>To address the behavioral needs of students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades</p> <p>To address the social emotional needs of students in grades K-12</p> <p>To identify students at risk of dropping out in elementary, intermediate & middle school</p> <p>To provide college and career ready skills for students in grades K-12</p> <p>To communicate better with parents regarding absenteeism to help lower the truancy rate</p> <p>To strengthen communication with and reporting to truancy officer to help lower chronic absenteeism rate</p>
Short Term Goals	<p>To identify students that are at-risk in the early grades</p> <p>To provide data analysis to identify and address student remediation needs</p> <p>To provide additional options for students who opt out of attending colleges and universities</p> <p>To provide parents with information that can equip them with the ability to work with the school in the education process.</p>

Long Term Goals	<p>To increase graduation rate by 5% each year</p> <p>To increase parental involvement by 5% each year</p> <p>To ensure that 3rd grade students are reading on grade level and remain on level and above</p> <p>To increase the relevance of teacher professional development by 5% each year.</p>
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	<p>To decrease truancy rate each year by 5%</p> <p>To provide more training at the Parent Center to address literacy and provide parents with other instructional skills to assist their children</p> <p>To identify all at-risk students before 3rd grade</p> <p>To provide students with an alternate option for the traditional classroom setting</p>
Recommendations for future needs assessments	<p>To produce multiple surveys during the school year</p> <p>To provide intensive data training for teachers</p> <p>To provide professional development sessions to add rigor to instruction</p>

District Level Goals				
Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students
Current/Proposed Initiative: Reduce retention rates in grades kindergarten, first, and second.	Chief Strategy Officer, Elementary Principals, Counselors, & Teachers	Ongoing	CMUSD K-2 teachers will utilize Reading Street Curriculum in addition to Heggerty for Phonemic Awareness. Students will be progress monitored to determine if they are performing on grade level. CMUSD academic coaches, MDE literacy coaches, and any contractual consultants will provide professional development to assist teachers with literacy. iReady will be utilized as a progress monitoring tool for students. This assessment will be administered 3 times a year.	Decrease the number of students off track by 10% by the end of the 2023-24 SY.

District Level Goals

District Level Goals				
Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students
Current/Proposed Initiative: Target subgroups that need additional assistance to meet yearly academic requirements	Principals, Counselors, Graduation Coach, Data Coach EL Coordinator, MTSS Coordinator	Ongoing	Bi-weekly MTSS meetings to monitor student progress, lesson plan review for appropriate instructional strategies Utilize Choices 360 with students grades K-12 to help make decisions about educational and career goals.	Increasing the number of students passing ELA & math by 10% by the end of the 2023- 24 SY.
Current/Proposed Initiative: Develop dropout recovery initiatives that focus on students (age 17 to 21) who dropped out of school	High School Principal, Counselors, Data Coach & Graduation Coach	Ongoing	The high school team will continue to maintain its tracking system for students. This system will be monitored monthly to ensure students who meet the dropout indicators are counseled and provided resources to stay on track to graduate.	Increase the current graduation rate of 87.4% to 90% by the end of the 2023- 24 SY.

District Level Goals				
Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students
<p>Current/Proposed Initiative: Address how students will transition to their home school district from the juvenile detention centers.</p>	<p>Special Services Director, High School Principal, Counselors, Teachers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CMUSD will follow the policy for transitioning students from the juvenile detention center to their home schools. Principals, counselors, and staff will be notified when a student is released to return to the district. Transitioning students will be assessed to determine grade level performance and appropriate placement.</p>	<p>To ensure no more than 0% to 5% of the students are off track according to the EWS course performance at the end of the year.</p>
<p>Current/Proposed Initiative: Provide an alternative program for students ages 11-17 who are experiencing academic and behavioral issues in the traditional school setting.</p>	<p>Chief Strategy Officer, Principals, Counselors, & MTSS Coordinator</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Alternative placement staff, principals and counselors</p>	<p>Decrease the dropout rate of 12.6% by 5% by the end of the 2023-24 SY.</p>

Clarksdale High School
J.W. Stampley 9th Grade Academy
Carl Keen Career & Technical Center

Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students
Current/Proposed Initiative: Students meeting the requirements of IHL will be enrolled in dual enrollment college level courses.	High School Principal High School Counselor Graduation Coach	Ongoing	Course selections forms for registration, counselors, and graduation coach	Increase the number of students meeting the requirements to enroll in dual enrollment classes by 5% by the end of the 2023-24 SY.
Current/Proposed Initiative: CHS will offer advanced placement courses to all students. Students must meet placement requirements.	High School Principal, Counselors, & Graduation Coach	Ongoing	Course selections forms for registration, counselors, and graduation coach	Increase the passage rate on advance placement assessments by 5% for the 2023-24 SY
Current/Proposed Initiative: CHS will continue to provide academic extended learning opportunities for students before, during, after school and on Saturdays.	High School Principal, Counselors, Teachers	Ongoing	State test data, classroom data, snapshot data, MTSS documentation	To ensure no more than 0% to 5% of the students are off track according to the EWS course performance at the end of the year.

Clarksdale High School
J.W. Stampley 9th Grade Academy
Carl Keen Career & Technical Center

Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students
Current/Proposed Initiative: Students will be exposed to college and career opportunities by participating in college tours and attending career fairs.	High School Principal, Counselors, Graduation Coach	Ongoing	College recruiters, transportation, parent consent, schedule of college tours	To increase the graduation rate to 90% at the end of the 2023-24 SY.
Current/Proposed Initiative: Conduct family night for all grade levels to keep parents and students updated and informed on expectations to successfully meet deadlines, end of course requirements and diploma track options.	Counselors, Graduation Coach, & District Parent Liaison	Ongoing	Counselors, Graduation Coach, District Parent Liaison, student transcripts	To provide hands on assistance to parents and students on end of course requirements in a timely manner
Current/Proposed Initiative: The instructional staff will participate in staff development to stay up to date on evidenced based pedagogical strategies to improve student learning.	Chief Strategy Officer High School Principal Academic Coaches	Ongoing	PLC's, activity evaluations, agendas	Lesson plan submissions with improved teaching strategies and rigorous standards-aligned instructional activities

W. A. Higgins Middle School

Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students
Current/Proposed Initiative: Determine what students can be placed in advanced level courses	Middle School Principal Middle School Counselor	Ongoing	Course selections forms for registration, counselors	Increase the number of students meeting the requirements to enroll in advanced level courses by 5% by the end of the 2023-24 SY.
Current/Proposed Initiative: WAHMS will continue to provide academic extended learning opportunities for students before, during, after school and on Saturdays (when offered).	Middle School Principal, Counselors, Teachers	Ongoing	State test data, classroom data, snapshot data, MTSS documentation	To ensure no more than 0% to 5% of the students are off track according to the EWS course performance at the end of the year.
Current/Proposed Initiative: Students will be exposed to career fairs to explore potential careers.	Middle School Principal, Counselor	Ongoing	College and business representatives	To increase the graduation rate to 88% at the end of the 2023-24 SY.

W. A. Higgins Middle School

W. A. Higgins Middle School					
Action Steps	Individual(s) Responsible	Timeline	Resources	Expected Outcomes for Students	
Current/Proposed Initiative: Conduct family night for all grade levels to keep parents and students updated and informed on expectations to successfully meet deadlines and end of course requirements.	Middle School Principal, Counselor, District Parent Liaison	Ongoing	Counselors and student transcripts	To provide hands on assistance to parents and students on end of course requirements in a timely manner	
Current/Proposed Initiative: The instructional staff will participate in staff development to stay up to date on evidenced based pedagogical strategies to improve student learning.	Chief Strategy Officer Middle School Principal Academic Coaches	Ongoing	PLC's, activity evaluations, agendas	Lesson plan submissions with improved teaching strategies and engaging classrooms	