



Forrest County School District Dropout Prevention Plan

BRIAN FREEMAN
Superintendent of Education
400 Forrest Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39403
Phone 601-545-6055 Fax 601-545-6054



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Team Members

Jennifer Riels	North Forrest High School, Administrator
Kris Arnold	Counselor
Gina Gallant	Assistant Superintendent
Mike Papas	Career Technical Director
Quan O’Neal	North Forrest Elementary, Principal
Blair Lenoir	Rawls Springs Attendance Center, Principal

Verification of Presentation

On behalf of the Forrest County School District, I hereby submit a local Dropout Prevention Plan to provide goals, activities and services necessary to meet the three overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan. 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. 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 Team Leader:

Name: Gina Gallant Title: Assistant Superintendent

Mailing Address: 400 Forrest St. Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Telephone #: 601-545-6055 Fax #: 601-545-6054

District Superintendent: Brian Freeman

_____ (signature)

School Board Chair: Jason Helton

_____ (signature)



Data/Information Strategies

Forrest County School District is located in central Mississippi. The district consists of five elementary schools and one high school. All schools are rural and vary in size based on community population. The largest school enrollment is 650 and the smallest population enrollment is 219.

Attendance Rate

Attendance rates for the 2023-2024 school year include information pertaining in-person. Attendance rate averaged 4% absences per day. On average most students missed no more than 6 days in 2023-2024.

Approximately 15 North Forrest High School students were referred to Truancy. The Forrest County School District experienced approximately a 8% transfer rate.

Graduation Rate

The Graduation Rate for 2023-2024 was 100%, approximately 11% higher than the state average. This is a 13% increase from the previous school year. The district will continue with specific strategies used the previous year.

Disciplinary Infraction Rate

Districtwide discipline referrals decreased by 2% in the 2023-2024 school year. Forrest County School District discipline infractions averaged approximately 180 offenses with 31% resulting in home suspension. North Forrest High School discipline infractions for the 2023-2024 school year resulted in 241 office discipline referrals. Sixty-three males and 47 females received a disciplinary infraction. One-hundred and twenty of the 265 were placed on home suspension; 5 was placed in the Alternative Education program; the remaining either received a warning or received in-school detention. There were 4 expulsions. The disciplinary recidivism rate is approximately 56%. Students included in the recidivism rate were placed in the Boost program where individual behavior plans were put into action to address and correct behaviors in an effort to lower the recidivism rate.

School Population

Forrest County School District had a total enrollment of 2,129 in 2023-2024; as a district, demographically 41.5% African American, 45.4% caucasian, and 5.1% other (Hispanic, Asian, etc). North Forrest High School population is 72% African American, 18% caucasian, 7% Hispanic, 2% other (Asian, Indian, etc). Fifty-five percent of the students are male and 45% are female. Eighty-eight percent of the students are identified as economically disadvantaged. Four percent of the student population has limited English proficiency. The largest percentage of students receiving ELL services are Hispanic and Indian. These students receive additional supports provided by the district ELL instructor weekly; in addition, to individualized classroom instruction/support provided by regular education teachers. Twelve percent of the student population is identified as students with disabilities. These students receive inclusion services, as well as, individualized instruction based on their disability and need.

Teacher Attendance

Forrest County School District employs 191 teachers; 137 of these teachers are experienced teachers with four or more years of experience. The teacher attendance rate for the 2023-2024 school year averaged 16%.

Pregnancy/Teen Parent

In previous years, North Forrest High School averaged approximately one pregnancy per year. In the 2023-2024 school year, NFHS recorded one teen pregnancy.

Education Level of Parents

The population of Forrest County is approximately 78,000 (based on most current 2023 U.S. Census data). Of those included in the 2019 U.S. Census, 89.5% report they have a high school diploma or higher and 28.7% report they have a bachelor's degree or higher. Based upon knowledge of the FCSD parent population, these statistics are similarly representative to district.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Forrest County School District students participate on average of 74% in extracurricular activities. Activities include but are not limited to football, basketball, and baseball, but also student academic and subject-specific clubs/organizations. All students are given the opportunity to participate in activities and are made aware of all try-out opportunities, practice notices, and meetings by sponsors, via social media, and daily announcements.

Parents are kept informed of extracurricular opportunities through social media, sponsor-to-parent contact, etc.

Grade Point Average and ACT Average

Forrest County School District students' Grade Point Average is 85 which is cumulative to 3.0. North Forrest High School's 2023-2024 graduating class's GPA was 84.35 which is equal to 3.0. The average ACT composite for 2023-2024 seniors was 16.45 (Math 16.34; Science 17.54; English 15.93; Reading 16.36). Academic achievement of the class of 2023-2024 resulted in \$300,000 worth of scholarship offers from various community colleges and universities throughout the United States. North Forrest High School will continue to provide ACT preparatory services, testing opportunities to students in all grade levels, and individual College and Career Advisors for students during their senior year.

Reading and Math Scores

Forrest County School District students took state tests in Spring 2022. Based on state tests in 2022, K - 8 ELA proficiency was 42.4% and Math proficiency was 57.6%; North Forrest High School results place 10th grade English students at 50% proficiency, Algebra students at 79.4%, Biology I students at 74.1%, and US History at 78% proficiency. Pass rates for each of North Forrest High School SATP areas are: Algebra I - 100%, US History - 88.2%, Biology I - 85.2%, and English II - 85.2%. Based on Reading Gate scores for 2023, District 3rd graders had a 80.4% pass rate. Schools will continue to strategically address deficiencies using data collected in daily instruction, teacher-created assessments, district progress monitoring, and district math and ELA interventionists.



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Sources of data included in the Plan:

- ❖ MSIS Reports
- ❖ ACT Data
- ❖ State Testing Data (2023)
- ❖ PBIS Data
- ❖ Student Information Package (SAMS)
- ❖ Graduation and Scholarship Information
- ❖ College/Career Ready Data
- ❖ Acceleration Data
- ❖ Attendance
- ❖ Discipline

Reduce the retention rate of Kindergarten – 2nd grade students:

K-2 will reduce retention by 5% over the next two years by utilizing Boost programs and targeted interventions identified by district, teacher, and Boost progress monitoring. The Boost program identifies students in the bottom quartile as well as those who are failing to provide intervention assistance and remediation skill deficits. Student Attendance and discipline are components of the Boost data collection for identifying needed interventions in an effort to prevent possible retention. The district is currently in its fourth year of Pre-K programs in the district and will be adding an additional program at another school in the district for the 2023-2024 school year.



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Support of Subgroups:

Reduce the number of students, included in identified subgroups, failing subject area tests by 3% each year through the use of targeted small group intervention and career counseling. All students, to include all subgroups, scoring in the bottom quartile or identified as failing a specific subject are provided remediation and intervention for specific skills to promote graduation success. Progress monitoring of skill development provided the necessary data tool to determine success criteria. Small group assistance is provided for students to develop the necessary mastery to meet graduation requirements. In addition, students will be provided career counseling and an opportunity to participate in career technical programs and career exploration/counseling.



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- ❖ Discipline

Age 17 – 21 Recovery Initiative:

Forrest County School District will develop a dropout recovery initiative that focuses on students aged 17 to 21 who dropped out of school (i.e. Mississippi Works) Dropout recovery/return to school for graduation, the High School counselor's office will review all files of students 17 – 21 making contact with at least 20% of the students and/or family members. Once contact can be established, staff will review past student's options available to become a high school graduate. The counselor's office will work with all area resources to help facilitate success and provide career counseling through the Career and Technical program.



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Transition:

To address how students will transition from detention centers and other outside facilities to the home district, committee members will develop a Transition Plan for each individual student. The goal is to transition at least 80% of the students successfully back into the school system. The plan will include behavior goals, positive behavior supports, interventions, possible reinforcers, consequences for inappropriate behavior, and measures to determine effectiveness. Plans will be for no more than 45 days and monitored by the home-zoned school team members.



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Interschool/association Dropout Coordination Plan

District interschool/association meetings will be held quarterly to disseminate and analyze data points outlined in the plan and to make modifications based on data analysis. Monthly school meetings will be held to analyze data points and develop school-specific plans to address issues that affect the direct success of students. Individual student needs will be addressed locally and then discussed at the district interschool/association meetings each quarter. At the fourth quarter meeting, modifications deemed necessary will be made to address any goal deficiencies and successes.