

South Tippah School District Dropout Prevention-Restructuring Plan 2024 – 2025



**Superintendent
Tony Elliott**

South Tippah School District
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Why Write the Plan?



State law requires each school district to develop and implement an annual dropout prevention plan in each high school with a graduation rate below 85% to develop a restructuring plan within the school district's plan.

The plan must be approved by the district's local school board and posted on the district's website homepage by August 1st of each year.



The Mississippi Board of Education adopted goals in its 2016-2020 Five Year Strategic Plan. Goal 2 is *Every Student Graduates from High School and is Ready for College and Career*. One specific objective set for addressing this goal was an Early Warning System be utilized to identify students in need of assistance to reach graduation so appropriate interventions could be provided to assist each student with reaching the goal of exiting high school ready for college and career.

Dropout Prevention Team Members

Team Member	Position
Tony Elliott	Superintendent
Kelly Gates	Assistant Superintendent
Buck Buchanan	Assistant Superintendent
Lessie Stroupe	Ripley High Counselor
Liz Elliott	Blue Mountain School Graduation Coach
Alecia Sanderson	Pine Grove Assistant Principal
Amy Adams	TCTC Student Services
Heather Ashmore	Special Education Transition Teacher
Amanda Paseur	Work Based Learning Coordinator
Chris Lewellen	Tippah County Development Foundation Director
Mindy Alexander	3 rd Grade Teacher
Scott White	City of Ripley Chief of Police
Stacey Street	NASTUC Coordinator
Raquel Hardin	Attendance Officer
Lozaile Shields	NEMCC Counselor
Katie Hall	CPS (foster care) Director
Martina Morfin	English Learner Program Coordinator
Deana Reno	Career Coach

My School

The South Tippah School District is home to 2,496 students. The district's ethnic make-up is approximately 62% white, 25% black, 12% Hispanic and 1% Asian. The district's graduation has risen from 79.5% in 2014 to 96.3% in 2023. The district is comprised of five schools, a pre-K and a technology center. Tippah County has no private schools, neglected and delinquent facilities or juvenile detention centers. Students with behavior infractions are sent to the New Albany South Tippah Union County (NASTUC) Behavioral Center. South Tippah School District area includes five day-care/pre-K facilities: Noah's Ark (Methodist Church), First Baptist Daycare, Rainbow School (Church of Christ), Mother Goose (Private), and Prather Headstart.

Blue Mountain School is a K-12 school with an enrollment of 307 and an accountability rating of B. It is located in Blue Mountain, MS which is six miles south of the City of Ripley.

Pine Grove School is a PreK-12 school with an enrollment of 595 and an accountability rating of A. It is located in the Dumas community area fourteen miles from the town of Ripley.

Ripley Elementary School is a K-4 school with an enrollment of 606 and an accountability rating of A. It is located in the City of Ripley.

Ripley Middle School is a 5-8 school with an enrollment of 458 and an accountability rating of C. It is located in the City of Ripley adjacent to the Ripley High Campus and the District Office Building.

Ripley High School is a 9-12 school with an enrollment of 481 and an accountability rating of A. It is located in the City of Ripley surrounded by Ripley Middle School, the band hall and several athletic fields.

South Tippah Pre-K is a 3-4 year old program with an enrollment of 30 regular education students and 19 special education students. Parents pay \$200 per month tuition to attend. The school is located between Ripley and Blue Mountain.

Tippah Career and Technology Center serves the students of both North and South Tippah School Districts with a total enrollment of 230 with 137 of those students belonging to the South Tippah School District. The seven programs taught at the TCTC are Information Technology, Automotive Mechanics, Law and Public Safety, Welding, Health Science, Construction Carpentry and Work Based Learning.

Attendance Rate

Attendance ♥

2m ago ↻ ☰ ⋮ 📄

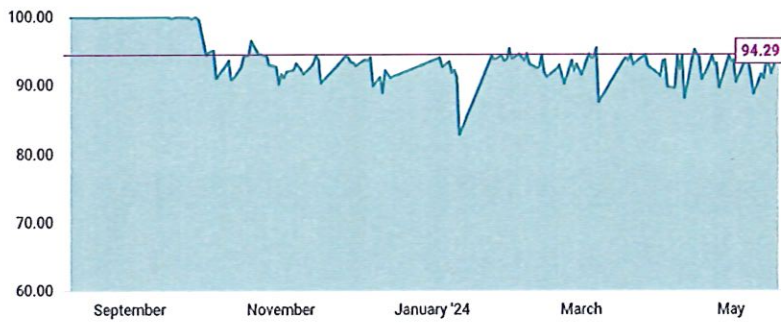
School

any value ▼

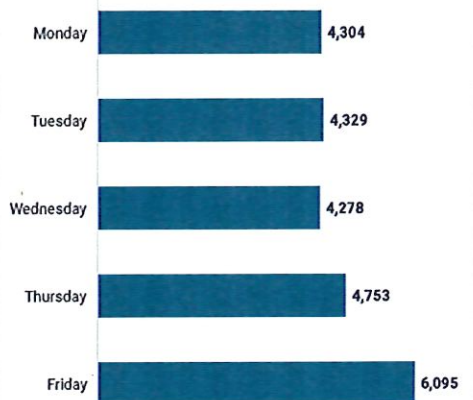
School Year *

2024 ✕ ▼

Daily Totals



Daily Breakdown



2024-05... 📄

2,475 📄
students co...

2,354 📄
present

121 📄
absent

95.11 📄
average (day)

Teacher Engagement

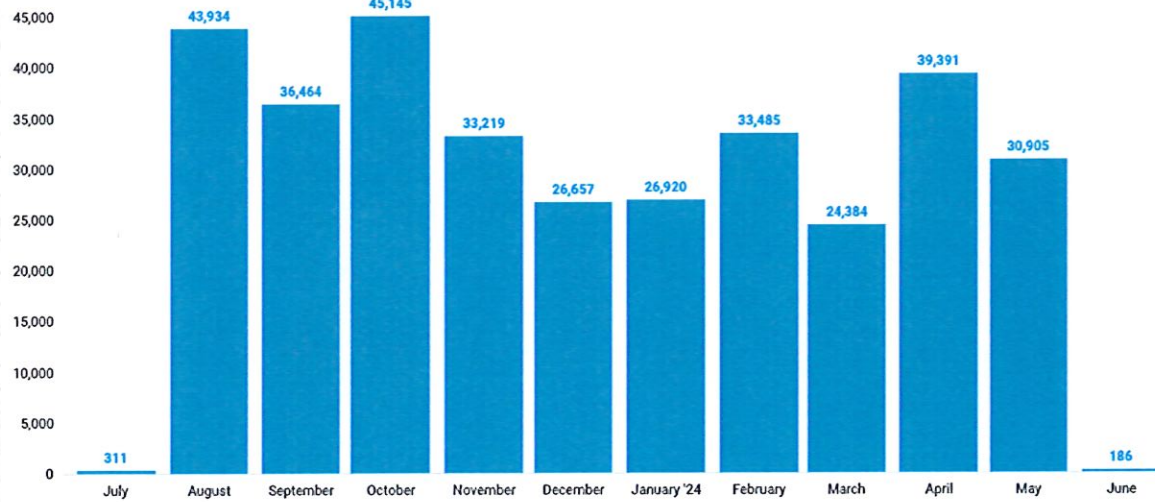
School

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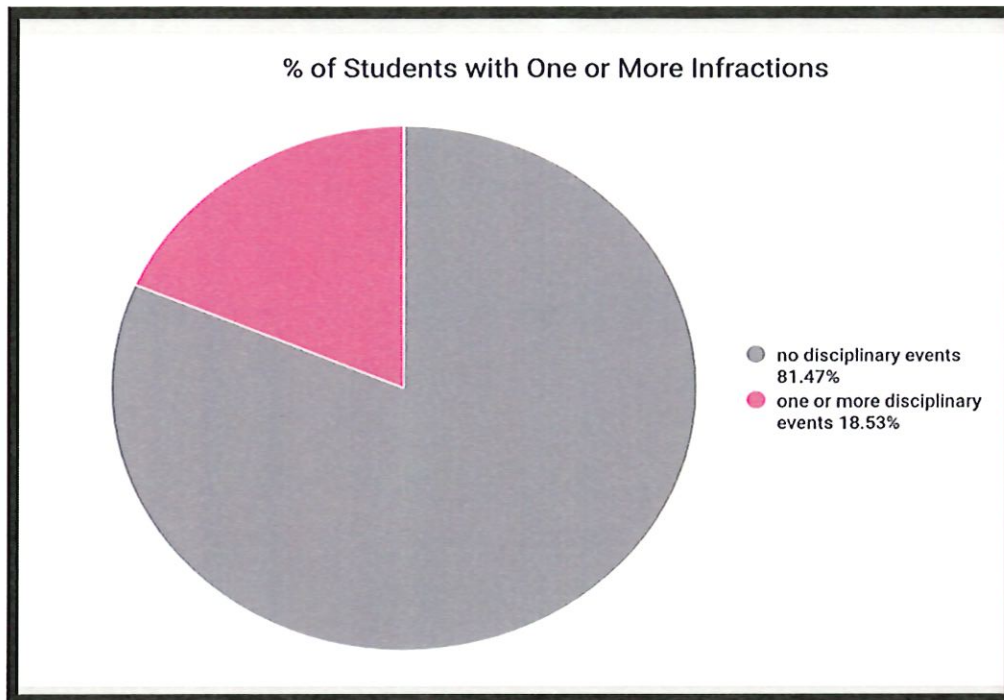
School Year

2024

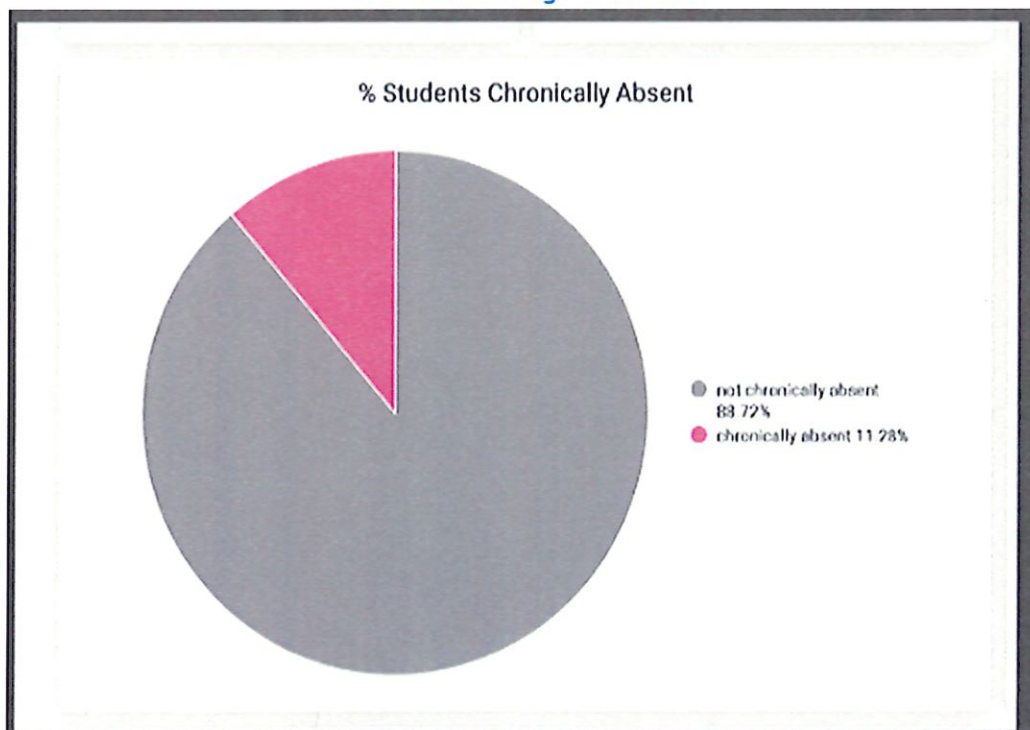
Engagement by Month ⓘ



Disciplinary Recidivism Rate



Truancy Rate



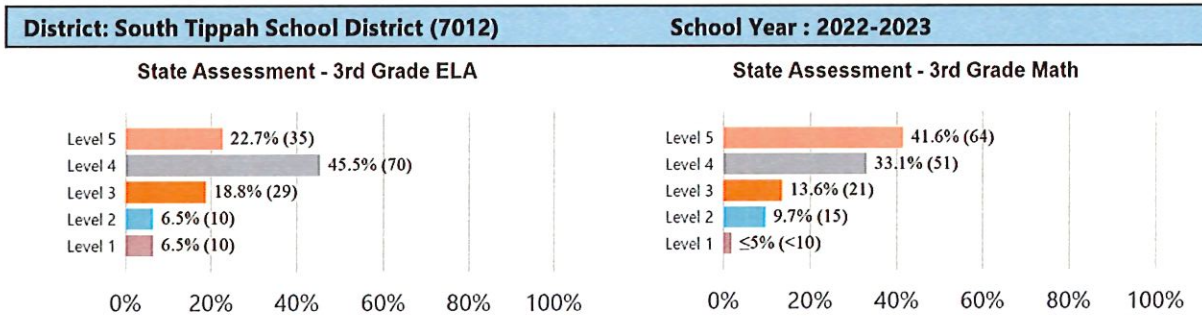
Graduation Rate/Dropout Rate

Graduation Rate/Dropout Rate		
School	Graduation Rate	Dropout rate
BLUE MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL	100	0
PINE GROVE HIGH SCHOOL	90.69	9.30
RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL	98.11	1.88
SOUTH TIPPAH SCHOOL DIST	96.36	3.63

District Reading and Math Scores

Proficiency Totals	
ELA Prof	46.9
Math Prof	63.5

Third Grade Reading and Math Scores



District Level Policy Statement Regarding Dropout Prevention

Section: J Students

Policy Code: JQH Drop-Out Prevention

Policy:

DROP-OUT PREVENTION

This school district will make diligent efforts to reduce and eliminate dropouts in the district. The school board directs the superintendent to provide regular reports on efforts made to increase student retention. This school district shall maintain accurate records documenting enrollment and attendance, including dropout rates, and shall provide an annual statistical report to the State Department of Education.

Technical assistance and coordination services may be obtained from the State Department of Education to districts seeking to reduce dropout rates.

DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM

This board will comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated as amended including but not limited to Section 37-13-80, Dropout Prevention, Assistance to certain local school districts to establish program of educational accountability and assessment of performance; personnel appraisal and compensation system for school employees; programs to prevent dropouts, and the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards and with all other applicable federal and state laws.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards for this policy are 10 and 11.

LEGAL REF: MS CODE as cited

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards

CROSS REF: Policies IB C Instructional Goals

JBA C Compulsory School Attendance

JCD C Alternative School Programs

Strategies

Transitioning from juvenile detention centers to their home school

Attendance

- Students have the option of being transitioned back to school through NASTUC. This offers the students a much smaller group setting than their regular home school.
- Attendance is kept on a day to day basis. When a student has successfully completed the assigned number of days, the student is allowed to re-enter their home school.

Behavior

- School Counselor and Region IV counselors available
- Positive Behavior Intervention Systems

Course Performance

- Extra-Curricular activities
 - Fifth grade students introduced to instrumental music by high school band director
 - 75% of sixth grade students participate in band with high school band director
 - Sports available for seventh and eighth graders
 - Coaches are the same faculty members for Junior High and High School.
 - Failure policy is in place for sports
- Teachers preparing students in accordance with Common Core State Standards
- Availability of Counselors
 - School and Region IV on campus to meet students social/emotional needs
 - Resources provided to economically disadvantaged and Limited English students
 - Example: school supplies, partnering with another student
- Attendance officer on campus

Goals/Strategies

Reducing the Retention Rates in Grades K – 2

Attendance

- AIM calls to parents of students who are tardy or absent and to inform parents of special events
- Open houses throughout the year
- Teacher phone calls to voice concerns and to communicate praise and build relationships
- Attendance officer is diligent to call and work with parents of students who have attendance issues

Behavior

- School counselors and Region IV counselors on campus to meet students' social / emotional needs

Course Performance

- Low performing students identified early
 - Baseline assessments given to determine reading and math levels using STAR Reading, STAR Early Literacy, and STAR Math and ELS in Grades 2-8
 - Leveled reading classes with extra support in lower levels
- Multi-tiered Support System
 - Consists of classroom teacher plus a committee of teachers and administrators
 - Struggling students identified by classroom teachers and baseline assessments
 - Research based interventions are established to improve student learning
 - Small group work
 - Constantly assess progress to make proper adjustments to interventions

Assisting our Subgroups

Attendance

- School and hygiene supplies available to homeless students
- Homeless Liaison and Counselors help homeless students connect with social programs that will help education continue unimpeded
- Homeless, foster and EL students are enrolled quickly

Behavior

- School Counselor and Region IV counselors available
- EL coordinator is bilingual and available to help with parent / student / school communication

Course Performance

- Resources such as school supplies are provided to economically disadvantaged, homeless, foster and English Learner students
- Every EL student has a dedicated EL tutor
- Ripley Middle has a dedicated EL and SpEd interventionist

Dropout Recovery Initiatives

Attendance

- Attendance monitored through the district's early warning system
- Truancy officer talks to families who have children with excessive absences
- School Status software enables principals to monitor attendance patterns

Behavior

- Every effort is given to use in school suspension rather than out of school suspension as a punishment for poor behavior
- School Counselors and Region IV Counselors help students who have behavior problems
- Each school has its own positive behavior program
- Annual district career fair to assist students with career pathways
- Gateway program through NEMCC

Course Performance

- Assessment done by school counselor to create a school and career path
 - High school classes and careers researched in relation to students' interests

Dropout Prevention/Reconstructing Plan Assurance Page

On behalf of South Tippah School District, I hereby submit the Dropout Prevention/Reconstructing Plan to provide goals, activities, and service necessary to meet the overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan:

- 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 student ages 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.

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.

District Superintendent: (Print Name here) _____ (Signature here) _____

Date _____

School Board Chair: (Print Name here) _____ (Signature here) _____

Date _____