

# KOSCIUSKO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## DROPOUT PREVENTION PLAN 2020-2021

**Billy Ellzey**  
Superintendent of  
Education

## **Part II. Dropout Prevention Team Members:**

Henry Coats	Kosciusko High School
Jackie McElwain	Kosciusko Junior High
Michelle Nowell	Kosciusko Lower Elementary
Jennie Cook	Kosciusko Special Education Director
Dave Woodfin	Kosciusko Success School Director

## **District Team Members**

Billy Ellzey  
Superintendent

Chancey Fort  
Federal Programs/Student Assessment/Counseling

Jerrelyn Jackson  
Professional Development, Curriculum

Jennie Cook  
Special Education Director

Wesley Carlisle  
Technology Director

Laura Carraway  
Food Services Director

Eli Dew  
Transportation/ Operations Director

**Part III. State of Assurance**

On behalf of the Kosciusko 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: 1) increase the state graduation rate to 85% by the end of 2020 – 2021; 2) reduce the state dropout rate; and 3) reduce the state truancy rate.

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 developing 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 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: Billy Ellzey: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

School Board Chair: Dr. Kenneth Quick: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

# District Schools

## **Elementary**

Kosciusko Lower Elementary (PK-1)

Michelle Nowell, Principal

Kosciusko Middle Elementary (2-3)

Will Anderson, Principal

Kosciusko Upper Elementary (4-5)

Josh Dodd, Principal

## **Junior High School**

Kosciusko Junior High School (6-8)

Jackie McElwain, Principal

## **High School**

Kosciusko High School (9-12)

Henry Coats, Principal

## **District - Wide**

Success School

Dave Woodfin, Director

**Part IV: District Data Form**

**Kosciusko School District**

**Data from 2019-2020**

**Graduation Rate: 84%**

**School Data**

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Junior High</b>	<b>High School</b>
Number of Schools	3	1	1
Cumulative Enrollment	1059	542	633
Counselor/Student Ratio	1:353	1:542	1:316.5

**Student Demographic Data**

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Junior High</b>	<b>High School</b>
Female	511	267	337
Male	548	275	296
Asian	9	6	6
Black	616	326	363
Hispanic	41	24	23
American Indian	1	1	0

White	392	183	241
Pacific Islander	0	2	0

**Part V: District Needs Assessment Outcomes**

**Our Mission**

The goal of the Kosciusko School District Dropout Prevention Plan is to provide students with options which will prevent them from dropping out of school and to serve as a resource guide. The Dropout Prevention was designed to show what the district is doing to address factors that may cause students to drop out of school.

**Identifying At-risk Students**

**Educational Indicators**

- Retention rates of students in kindergarten through second grade
- Passage rate on third grade reading summative assessment
- Passage rates on subject area tests
- Result of formative and progress monitoring assessments
- Two or more grades behind peers
- Attendance rates

**Behavioral Indicators**

- Office referrals
- Suspensions
- Chronic absenteeism
- Excessive tardies

**Socio-Economic Indicators**

- Free and reduced lunch benefits
- Homeless, migrant, and unaccompanied youth designations
- English Learners

**Goal and Objectives:**

Kosciusko School District’s Dropout Prevention plan is inclusive of objectives, initiatives, and strategies required to meet the goal of the state’s dropout prevention plan: raise the graduation rate to at least 85% by the 2022 - 2023 school year.

### **Goal 1: Reduce the retention rates in grades kindergarten, first and second**

- Identify students at risk through MTSS
- Use the tier process to modify instruction
- Build a relationship and educate the stakeholders in how to supplement the student at home in order to support the learning process
- Professional development for staff offered to support the education process of the at risk student
- Hire additional interventionist to work with the at risk students

### **Goal 2: Target subgroups that need additional assistance to meet graduation requirements**

- Tutoring services will be offered to help students meet IEP goals.
- Credit recovery will be offered to enable student success in courses in which they were not originally successful.
- Curriculum aligned supplementary material will be provided to help with the passing of state tests.
- Partner with MDRS to help students with a service plan in outlining their pathway to graduation.
- Transitional counseling to all special populations students

### **Goal 3: Develop dropout recovery initiatives that focus on students age seventeen (17) through twenty-one (21), who dropped out of school (i.e., Mississippi Works)**

- Students who are at risk for drop out or who have already dropped out, along with their families, will be introduced to the following programs in order to develop a plan to enable them to be a productive citizen; Camp Shelby, GED through local community college and MS Job CorpNew Horizon
- Students who complete these programs would be able to enter the workforce or attend college with the specialized skills they learn in these programs. During their time of decision making along with entering one of these programs, community mentors will be assigned to students to encourage and support them.

#### **Goal 4: Address how students will transition to the home school district from juvenile detention centers**

- A student who is placed in juvenile detention center, resulting in their absence from the home district for at least 60 days, will be placed in a transitional school environment for not less than 30 days.

#### **Goals:**

- Maintain a successful discipline record
- Not more than 2 days absent during the 30 day placement
- Maintain at least a 70 average in all course work
- Once students have completed 30 days and met the goals set by the district, the student may return to their home school.

### **Appendix G**

#### **Mississippi Department of Education State Dropout Prevention Plan**

##### **15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention**

Since 1986, the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network (NDPC/N) has conducted and analyzed research, sponsored extensive workshops, and collaborated with a variety of practitioners to further the mission of reducing America's dropout rate by meeting the needs of youth in at-risk situations, including students with disabilities.

Students report a variety of reasons for dropping out of school, therefore, the solutions are multidimensional. The NDPC/N has identified 15 Effective Strategies that have the most positive impact on the high school graduation rate. These strategies appear to be independent but actually work well together and frequently overlap. Although they can be implemented as stand-alone programs (i.e. mentoring or family engagement projects), positive outcomes will result when school districts develop an improvement plan that encompasses most or all of these strategies. These strategies have been successful in all school levels from K-12 and in rural, suburban, or urban centers. These applications form the foundation for Mississippi's

State-Level Dropout Prevention Plan and offer guidance to the development of a district dropout prevention plan

### **School and Community Perspective**

**Strategy 1** Systemic Renewal – A continuing process of evaluating goals and objectives related to school policies, practices and organizational structures as they impact a diverse group of learners.

**Strategy 2** School-Community Collaboration – When all groups in a community provide collective support to the school, a strong infrastructure sustains a caring, supportive environment where youth can thrive and achieve.

**Strategy 3** Safe Learning Environments – A comprehensive violence prevention plan, including conflict resolution, must deal with potential violence as well as crisis management. A safe learning environment provides daily experiences, at all grade levels that enhance positive social attitudes and effective interpersonal skills in all students.

### **Early Interventions**

**Strategy 4** Family Engagement – Research consistently finds that family engagement has a direct, positive effect on children's achievement and is the most accurate predictor of a student's success in school.

**Strategy 5** Early Childhood Education – Birth-to-five interventions demonstrate that providing a child additional enrichment can enhance brain development. The most effective way to reduce the number of children who will ultimately drop out is to provide the best possible classroom instruction from the beginning of their school experience through the primary grades.

**Strategy 6** Early Literacy Development – Early interventions to help low-achieving students improve their reading and writing skills establish the necessary foundation for effective learning in all other subjects.

### **Basic Core Strategies**

**Strategy 7** Mentoring/Tutoring – Mentoring is a one-to-one caring, supportive relationship between a mentor and a mentee that is based on trust. Tutoring, also a one-to-one activity, focuses on academics and is an effective practice when addressing specific needs such as reading, writing, or math competencies.

**Strategy 8** Service-Learning – Service-learning connects meaningful community service experiences with academic learning. This teaching/learning method promotes personal and social growth, career development, and civic responsibility and can be a powerful vehicle for effective school reform at all grade levels.

**Strategy 9** Alternative Schooling – Alternative schooling provides potential dropouts a variety of options that can lead to graduation, with programs paying special attention to the student's individual social needs and academic requirements for a high school diploma.

**Strategy 10** After-School Opportunities – Many schools provide after-school and summer enhancement programs that eliminate information loss and inspire interest in a variety of areas. Such experiences are especially important for students at risk of school failure because these programs fill the afternoon "gap time" with constructive and engaging activities.

### **Making the Most of Education**

**Strategy 11** Professional Development – Teachers who work with youth at high risk of academic failure need to feel supported and have an avenue by which they can continue to develop skills and techniques, and to learn about innovative strategies.

**Strategy 12** Active Learning – Active learning embraces teaching and learning strategies that engage and involve students in the learning process. Students find new and creative ways to solve problems, achieve success, and become lifelong learners when educators show them that there are different ways to learn.

**Strategy 13** Educational Technology – Technology offers some of the best opportunities for delivering instruction to engage students in authentic learning, addressing multiple intelligences, and adapting to students' learning styles.

**Strategy 14** Individualized Instruction – Each student has unique interests and past learning experiences. An individualized instructional program for each student allows for flexibility in teaching methods and motivational strategies to consider these individual differences.

**Strategy 15** Career and Technical Education (CTE) – A quality CTE program and a related guidance program are essential for all students. School-to-work programs recognize that youth need specific skills to prepare them to measure up to the larger demands of today's workplace.