



Mississippi First (MSF) champions transformative policy solutions ensuring educational excellence for every Mississippi child. Mississippi First is dedicated to advancing the best education policy ideas through the policy continuum—research and analysis, public awareness and issue education, advocacy, implementation, and evaluation.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

By FY21, at least 35% of children will be in full-time, no-cost, high-quality pre-K seats.

In 2018, we published multiple pre-K toolkits to assist communities with developing their own high-quality pre-K seats. The legislature also increased funding for state-funded early learning collaborative seats to \$6.5 million. In 2019, we will continue to build high-quality pre-K options through research, issue education, advocacy, and implementation work.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

By FY21, Mississippi will have 15 approved schools in at least three low-performing areas, with capacity to serve 17,250. No charter schools will be below a "C" after 3 years.

In 2018, Mississippi First worked closely with the first charter school that will open in the Mississippi Delta. We also provided technical assistance to the Authorizer Board, helping them secure federal Charter Schools Program funding for the next five years. In 2019, we will focus on improving authorizing through strong policymaking and on strengthening the charter sector.

STANDARDS & TESTING

By FY21, influence state policymakers to adopt at least two recommendations from our recent testing report.

In 2018, MSF released *Understanding District and State Testing in Mississippi*. This report uses field research on testing practices in four diverse Mississippi school districts to determine how many tests Mississippi students take and how much time they spend taking those tests. In 2019, we will seek to influence state and district policies based on our findings.

EDUCATOR PIPELINE

By FY21, Mississippi will increase the percentage of low-income students served by a highly effective teacher.

In 2019, we will launch a new three-year initiative to study the educator pipeline in Mississippi and propose policy solutions that will increase the equitable access of quality teachers. The first year of the initiative will be focused on gathering the research necessary to understand the pipeline problem.

2018-2019 OBJECTIVES

RESEARCH: Begin data collection for the third *State of Pre-K* report.

ISSUE EDUCATION: Increase awareness and support for the state-funded pre-K program among candidates for state office.

ADVOCACY: Raise the pre-K per-pupil rate from \$4,300 to \$5,000.

ADVOCACY: Increase and sustain support for the Early Learning Collaboratives among legislators by launching the Early Childhood Education Caucus.

IMPLEMENTATION: Develop policy strategies and solutions to ensure Mississippi maintains its "10 of 10" NIEER rating.

IMPLEMENTATION: Provide trainings for communities on establishing pre-K programs.

IMPLEMENTATION: Hold recruitment meetings with three charter management organizations.

IMPLEMENTATION: Design, analyze, and report on a parent survey about charter schools with the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board.

IMPLEMENTATION: Work closely with the Authorizer Board to draft, amend, and adopt policies and procedures.

IMPLEMENTATION: Work closely with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools to provide sector support.

IMPLEMENTATION: Serve on the Mississippi Department of Education Testing Taskforce.

RESEARCH: Establish a research plan and strategy for addressing educator pipeline issues in Mississippi in conjunction with Mississippi Department of Education.

ENGAGEMENT: Develop a vision for a teacher advisory group for the educator pipeline work.