



NORTH PANOLA
— SCHOOL DISTRICT —

DROPOUT PREVENTION *Plan*

2026-2029 —

**EVERY STUDENT.
EVERY DAY.
EVERY OPPORTUNITY.**

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
IS OUR #1 PRIORITY.**



ENGAGE



SUPPORT



SUCCEED



GRADUATE

**BUILDING PATHWAYS.
CHANGING FUTURES.**



North Panola School District**Dropout Prevention Plan****2026–2029****Student Achievement Is Our #1 Priority**

Board Approval Statement

The North Panola School District Dropout Prevention Plan is submitted for approval by the North Panola School District Board of Trustees. This plan establishes the district's coordinated system for identifying, supporting, monitoring, and graduating students who may be at risk of dropping out of school.

Upon approval, this plan will serve as the official district dropout prevention plan for implementation across North Panola School District and submission to the Mississippi Department of Education.

Vision

North Panola School District's vision is to create an academic culture where all students graduate college and career ready.

Mission

North Panola School District will provide high-quality instruction, a safe, supportive learning environment, and strong partnerships with families and the community to ensure every student is prepared to graduate college and career ready.

Purpose of the Dropout Prevention Plan

The purpose of the North Panola School District Dropout Prevention Plan is to provide a clear, organized, and districtwide system to prevent students from dropping out of school.

This plan is designed to identify students early, provide timely interventions, improve attendance, monitor academic progress, increase student engagement, expand graduation options, and ensure that every student has a clear pathway to earning a high school diploma.

North Panola School District has made significant progress by increasing the graduation rate from **78 percent to 89 percent**. This plan builds on that progress and establishes the structures needed to continue increasing the graduation rate while decreasing dropout risk.

The district will use this plan to ensure that students who are habitually absent, credit deficient, disengaged, or considering not returning to school receive immediate support from school and district personnel.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Dropout Prevention Plan directly supports the North Panola School District Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Ensure district and schools maintain or increase an academic letter grade of C or above.

This plan supports Goal 1 by increasing the four-year cohort graduation rate, monitoring student credits, providing academic interventions, maintaining the Graduation Coach, implementing Individual Graduation Plans, supporting credit recovery, and ensuring students remain on track to graduate.

Goal 2: Ensure all schools have a safe and orderly learning environment.

This plan supports Goal 2 by addressing attendance, behavior, discipline, student engagement, counseling, social-emotional support, and school climate. A safe and orderly environment helps students remain connected to school.

Goal 3: Cultivate strong partnerships with families and the community to support student success.

This plan supports Goal 3 by engaging parents, families, community stakeholders, churches, local businesses, colleges, and community agencies in dropout prevention, mentoring, attendance support, and student success planning.

Goal 4: Increase workforce development opportunities for all students.

This plan supports Goal 4 by ensuring students have access to career pathways, CTE programs, WorkKeys preparation, industry certifications, dual enrollment, job shadowing, internships, and postsecondary planning.

District Dropout Prevention Goals

North Panola School District will work to achieve the following goals:

1. Increase the four-year graduation rate to 90 percent or higher and continue progress toward 95 percent.
 2. Reduce the annual dropout rate.
 3. Maintain or increase student attendance to 93 percent or higher.
 4. Reduce chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy.
 5. Increase the number of students earning credits on time.
 6. Increase student participation in credit recovery when needed.
 7. Increase student participation in CTE, dual enrollment, WorkKeys, and industry certification opportunities.
 8. Ensure every student has an Individual Graduation Plan.
 9. Ensure students have access to all available graduation options.
 10. Strengthen family and community partnerships that support student success.
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Dropout Prevention Committee

The North Panola School District Dropout Prevention Committee will provide leadership, coordination, and monitoring for the district's dropout prevention efforts.

Committee Members

The committee shall include:

- Deputy Superintendent
- Director of Academics
- Federal Programs Director
- Principals
- Assistant Principals
- School Counselors
- Graduation Coach

- Career Coach
- Truancy Officer
- Attendance Clerks or Attendance Representatives
- Special Education Representative
- Ambunsmen Alternative School Representative
- Community Stakeholders
- Other district or school staff as needed

Committee Responsibilities

The Dropout Prevention Committee will:

1. Meet monthly to review student data.
2. Identify students at risk of dropping out.
3. Review attendance, academic, behavior, credit, and engagement data.
4. Assign interventions to appropriate staff members.
5. Monitor progress of students receiving dropout prevention support.
6. Review students who are habitually absent or considering not returning to school.
7. Ensure students are informed of all graduation options.
8. Coordinate support from counselors, Graduation Coach, Career Coach, Truancy Officer, and community partners.
9. Review referrals to Ombudsman Alternative School when appropriate.
10. Provide updates to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

Early Warning Indicators

North Panola School District will use an Early Warning System to identify students who may be at risk of dropping out.

Students may be identified based on one or more of the following indicators:

Attendance Indicators

- Chronic absenteeism

- Habitual truancy
- Excessive unexcused absences
- Frequent tardiness
- Long periods of non-attendance
- Student or parent statements indicating the student may not return

Academic Indicators

- Failing grades
- Course failures
- Credit deficiency
- Low GPA
- Failure to earn credits on time
- Lack of progress toward graduation requirements
- Low benchmark or state assessment performance

Behavior Indicators

- Repeated discipline referrals
- In-school or out-of-school suspensions
- Expulsion risk
- Disengagement from school expectations
- Social-emotional concerns affecting school participation

Engagement Indicators

- Lack of participation in school activities
- Withdrawal from peers or school programs
- Lack of postsecondary plan
- Student employment interfering with school
- Lack of connection to school
- Family, transportation, housing, or personal barriers

Tiered Dropout Prevention System

North Panola School District will use a tiered system of support to prevent students from dropping out.

Tier I: Prevention for All Students

All students will receive:

- High-quality classroom instruction
- Safe and supportive learning environments
- School counseling services
- College and career readiness activities
- Individual Graduation Plans
- Attendance expectations and monitoring
- Parent communication
- Career awareness and exploration
- Access to CTE opportunities
- Positive school culture and student engagement activities

Tier II: Targeted Support

Students showing early signs of risk will receive:

- Counselor check-ins
- Graduation Coach support
- Career Coach support
- Parent conferences
- Attendance contracts
- Academic tutoring
- Credit monitoring
- Mentoring

- Small group counseling
- Progress monitoring
- Teacher support plans
- Truancy Officer involvement when attendance concerns continue

Tier III: Intensive Support

Students at high risk of dropping out will receive:

- Individual Student Success Plan
- Weekly monitoring
- Home visits
- Truancy Officer support
- Administrator-led intervention meetings
- Wraparound services
- Community agency referrals
- Mental health referrals when needed
- Credit recovery plan
- Alternative scheduling when appropriate
- Referral to Ombudsman Alternative School when appropriate
- Transition support back to school after extended absence or withdrawal risk

Attendance and Truancy Support

Attendance is a major focus of the Dropout Prevention Plan. Students cannot remain on track to graduate if they are not consistently present at school.

The district will monitor attendance weekly and respond quickly when students begin missing school.

Attendance Intervention Steps

Step 1: Early Contact

When a student begins missing school, the teacher, counselor, or attendance staff will contact the parent or guardian.

Step 2: Counselor Support

The counselor will meet with the student to identify barriers to attendance and determine needed support.

Step 3: Parent Conference

The school will schedule a parent or guardian conference to discuss attendance concerns and develop an attendance improvement plan.

Step 4: Graduation Coach or Career Coach Support

For students in grades 9–12, the Graduation Coach and Career Coach will review the student's academic progress, credit status, career pathway, and graduation plan.

Step 5: Truancy Officer Support

The Truancy Officer will become involved when attendance concerns continue or when a student becomes habitually truant.

The Truancy Officer will:

- Monitor students with excessive absences.
- Conduct home visits when needed.
- Work with families to identify attendance barriers.
- Assist with attendance improvement plans.
- Coordinate with principals, counselors, Graduation Coach, Career Coach, and community agencies.
- Help students return to school after extended absences.
- Support compliance with compulsory attendance requirements.
- Report attendance concerns to the Dropout Prevention Committee.

Step 6: Dropout Prevention Committee Review

Students with ongoing attendance concerns will be reviewed by the Dropout Prevention Committee. Additional interventions may include home visits, mentoring, community agency support, credit recovery, alternative scheduling, or referral to Ambunsmen Alternative School.

Graduation Monitoring

North Panola School District will monitor graduation progress for every high school student.

The district will ensure that students understand graduation requirements, diploma options, credit requirements, assessment requirements, and postsecondary opportunities.

Graduation Monitoring Procedures

The school will:

1. Conduct graduation audits for students in grades 9–12.
2. Review each student's credits, grades, attendance, and pathway status.
3. Maintain an Individual Graduation Plan for each student.
4. Identify credit deficiencies early.
5. Provide credit recovery when needed.
6. Inform students and parents of graduation options.
7. Monitor seniors more frequently to ensure completion of graduation requirements.
8. Provide support for FAFSA completion, college applications, workforce applications, military options, and career planning.
9. Report graduation concerns to the Dropout Prevention Committee.

Graduation Coach Responsibilities

The Graduation Coach is a key support for dropout prevention at the high school.

The Graduation Coach will:

- Monitor student progress toward graduation.
- Review student credits and graduation requirements.
- Identify students who are off track.
- Meet with at-risk students.
- Coordinate credit recovery.

- Assist with Individual Graduation Plans.
 - Communicate with parents and guardians.
 - Work with counselors and administrators.
 - Support students returning from extended absences.
 - Help students understand available graduation options.
 - Report progress to the Dropout Prevention Committee.
-

Career Coach Responsibilities

The Career Coach helps students remain connected to school by connecting learning to future goals.

The Career Coach will:

- Support career exploration.
 - Assist students with career pathway planning.
 - Promote CTE opportunities.
 - Support WorkKeys preparation.
 - Promote industry certification opportunities.
 - Assist with dual enrollment awareness.
 - Coordinate college, career, military, and workforce planning.
 - Help students identify postsecondary goals.
 - Work with students who may be disengaged from school.
 - Report progress to the Dropout Prevention Committee.
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Counselor Responsibilities

School counselors will provide academic, social-emotional, and graduation support.

Counselors will:

- Review graduation requirements with students.

- Support Individual Graduation Plans.
 - Provide counseling services.
 - Assist with scheduling.
 - Monitor academic progress.
 - Coordinate parent conferences.
 - Provide social-emotional support.
 - Make referrals for mental health or community services when needed.
 - Collaborate with the Graduation Coach, Career Coach, Truancy Officer, and administrators.
 - Support students who are at risk of dropping out.
-

Principal and Assistant Principal Responsibilities

Principals and Assistant Principals are responsible for ensuring that dropout prevention procedures are implemented at the school level.

They will:

- Monitor attendance, discipline, and academic data.
 - Lead school-level intervention meetings.
 - Ensure timely parent communication.
 - Assign staff members to support students.
 - Monitor intervention implementation.
 - Support teachers in identifying at-risk students.
 - Review withdrawal requests before students exit school.
 - Work with the Truancy Officer on attendance concerns.
 - Participate in Dropout Prevention Committee meetings.
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Federal Programs Support

The Federal Programs Director will assist with identifying allowable resources to support dropout prevention efforts.

Federal Programs may support:

- Academic interventions
- Parent engagement
- Homeless student support
- Student support services
- Supplemental instructional resources
- Professional development
- Family communication
- Community partnerships
- Evidence-based interventions

Alternative Education Support

North Panola School District will use Ambunsmen Alternative School as a safety net for students who need alternative educational opportunities.

Ambunsmen may support students who:

- Need a smaller or more structured learning environment
- Have significant attendance concerns
- Have behavioral concerns affecting school success
- Are credit deficient
- Need an alternative pathway to remain connected to school
- Are at risk of dropping out
- Need transition support before returning to the traditional school setting

Referral to Ombudsman will be considered only after the school has reviewed the student's academic, attendance, behavior, and social-emotional needs.

The goal of alternative education is not to remove students from school, but to keep students connected to school and moving toward graduation.

Graduation Options and Pathways

North Panola School District will ensure that all graduation options are available to eligible students.

Students and families will be informed of options that may include:

- Traditional graduation pathway
- Career and Technical Education pathway
- Credit recovery
- Summer school
- Dual enrollment or dual credit
- WorkKeys preparation
- Industry certification opportunities
- Alternative scheduling when appropriate
- Alternative education placement when appropriate
- College, career, military, or workforce planning

Counselors, the Graduation Coach, and the Career Coach will review options with students and families to ensure that every student has a pathway to graduation.

Family and Community Engagement

Dropout prevention requires strong partnerships with families and the community.

North Panola School District will engage families and community partners by:

- Holding parent conferences
- Providing regular attendance and academic updates
- Offering flexible meeting options

- Communicating through phone calls, letters, text messages, email, and school platforms
 - Conducting home visits when needed
 - Connecting families with community resources
 - Partnering with churches, businesses, colleges, workforce agencies, and community organizations
 - Providing mentoring and student support opportunities
 - Recognizing community partners who support student success
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Student Success Plan

Students identified as at risk of dropping out may receive an Individual Student Success Plan.

The plan may include:

- Student name and grade
- Graduation cohort
- Attendance status
- Credit status
- Current grades
- Behavior concerns
- Identified barriers
- Assigned supports
- Parent contact information
- Responsible staff member
- Timeline for follow-up
- Progress monitoring notes

The Student Success Plan will be reviewed regularly until the student is back on track.

Monthly Monitoring Process

The Dropout Prevention Committee will meet monthly to review data and monitor student progress.

The monthly review may include:

- Students with chronic absenteeism
- Students with excessive unexcused absences
- Students failing one or more courses
- Students who are credit deficient
- Students with repeated discipline referrals
- Students who have withdrawn or attempted to withdraw
- Students returning from extended absences
- Students referred for alternative education
- Seniors not on track for graduation
- Students needing career pathway support

The committee will assign specific staff members to follow up with each student and will review progress at the next meeting.



NORTH PANOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT DROPOUT PREVENTION FLOWCHART

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY. EVERY OPPORTUNITY.



STUDENT DATA REVIEWED

Attendance, Grades, Credits, Behavior, Engagement



AT-RISK STUDENT IDENTIFIED

Early Warning Indicators



COUNSELOR, ADMINISTRATOR,
GRADUATION COACH, OR CAREER COACH REVIEW



PARENT OR GUARDIAN CONTACT



STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN DEVELOPED

SUPPORT ASSIGNED



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Tutoring
- Credit Recovery
- Teacher Support



ATTENDANCE SUPPORT

- Truancy Officer
- Attendance Plan
- Check-In / Check-Out
- Home Visits



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- Counseling
- Mentoring
- Mental Health
- Wraparound Services



CAREER SUPPORT

- Career Coach
- Career Pathways
- CTE / Dual Credit
- Industry Certs.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Community Agencies
- Family Support
- Resources



MONTHLY PROGRESS MONITORING

Review progress and adjust supports as needed

YES

STUDENT
IMPROVING?

NO



CONTINUE SUPPORTS
AND MONITOR



DROPOUT PREVENTION
COMMITTEE REVIEW

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS CONSIDERED



Credit
Recovery



Home
Visit



Attendance
Contract



Truancy Officer
Intervention



Alternative
Schedule



Community
Agency Referral



Ambulanceman
Alternative School



STUDENT REMAINS ENROLLED AND PROGRESSES TOWARD GRADUATION

College Ready • Career Ready • Military Ready • Workforce Ready



Data to Be Reviewed

North Panola School District will use data to monitor the effectiveness of the Dropout Prevention Plan.

Data reviewed may include:

- Graduation rate
- Dropout rate
- Attendance rate
- Chronic absenteeism rate
- Truancy referrals
- Course failure rate
- Credit recovery participation
- Credit recovery completion
- Discipline referrals
- Suspensions
- FAFSA completion
- Dual enrollment participation
- CTE participation
- WorkKeys performance
- Industry certifications
- Alternative school referrals
- Parent conference participation

Annual Evaluation

The Dropout Prevention Plan will be reviewed annually.

The annual review will include:

1. Graduation rate progress
2. Dropout rate progress
3. Attendance and chronic absenteeism data
4. Credit recovery outcomes
5. Discipline data
6. Student engagement data
7. Effectiveness of interventions
8. Committee recommendations
9. Needed revisions to the plan
10. Report to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees

The plan may be revised annually based on district data, student needs, Board priorities, and Mississippi Department of Education expectations.

Implementation Timeline

August

- Review graduation cohort data.
- Identify students at risk.
- Review Individual Graduation Plans.
- Begin attendance monitoring.
- Assign students to support staff.
- Review dropout prevention procedures with school staff.

September–December

- Conduct monthly Dropout Prevention Committee meetings.
- Monitor attendance, grades, credits, and behavior.
- Hold parent conferences.
- Begin credit recovery when needed.

- Provide counseling and career support.
- Assign Truancy Officer support when needed.

January–March

- Conduct mid-year graduation audits.
- Review seniors who are not on track.
- Adjust interventions.
- Review students with chronic absenteeism.
- Review Ombudsman referrals when appropriate.
- Continue parent and community engagement.

April–May

- Finalize senior graduation status.
- Review students at risk of not returning the following school year.
- Develop summer support plans.
- Review credit recovery needs.
- Prepare annual dropout prevention report.

June–July

- Evaluate plan outcomes.
- Review graduation and dropout data.
- Revise the plan as needed.
- Prepare updates for Board review.

Board and District Commitment

North Panola School District believes that every student can graduate when provided the right support, guidance, and opportunities.

The district is committed to identifying students early, responding quickly, involving families, using data, providing multiple pathways, and ensuring that no student is allowed

to leave school without a coordinated effort to keep the student enrolled and moving toward graduation.

Through the work of district leaders, principals, assistant principals, counselors, the Graduation Coach, the Career Coach, the Truancy Officer, teachers, families, Ambunsmen Alternative School, and community stakeholders, North Panola School District will continue working to ensure that every student graduates college and career ready.

Student Achievement Is Our #1 Priority.

Appendix A

Student Success Plan Template

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Graduation Cohort: _____

Date: _____

Attendance Rate: _____

Credits Earned: _____

Credits Needed: _____

Current GPA: _____

Primary Concern:

- ☐ Attendance
- ☐ Grades
- ☐ Credit Deficiency
- ☐ Behavior
- ☐ Social-Emotional Concern
- ☐ Family Concern
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Other: _____

Assigned Supports:

- ☐ Counselor
- ☐ Graduation Coach
- ☐ Career Coach
- ☐ Truancy Officer
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Assistant Principal
- ☐ Teacher Mentor
- ☐ Credit Recovery
- ☐ Tutoring
- ☐ Ombudsman Alternative School
- ☐ Community Agency

Action Steps:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Responsible Staff Member: _____

Parent Contact Date: _____

Follow-Up Date: _____

Progress Notes:

Appendix B**Attendance Intervention Form**

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

Number of Absences: _____

Number of Unexcused Absences: _____

Number of Tardies: _____

Parent Contacted: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date Contacted: _____

Reason for Absences:

Intervention Assigned:

- ☐ Parent Conference
- ☐ Counselor Meeting
- ☐ Attendance Contract
- ☐ Truancy Officer Referral
- ☐ Home Visit
- ☐ Community Resource Referral
- ☐ Dropout Prevention Committee Review

Next Steps:

Staff Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Appendix C

Monthly Dropout Prevention Committee Agenda

1. Review previous meeting notes.
 2. Review attendance data.
 3. Review chronic absenteeism and truancy concerns.
 4. Review academic and credit deficiency data.
 5. Review discipline and behavior concerns.
 6. Review Graduation Coach report.
 7. Review Career Coach report.
 8. Review Counselor report.
 9. Review Truancy Officer report.
 10. Review Ombudsman Alternative School referrals and progress.
 11. Review new student referrals.
 12. Assign interventions.
 13. Set follow-up dates.
 14. Prepare report for district leadership.
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Appendix D**Monthly Monitoring Dashboard**

Month: _____

School: _____

Graduation Rate: _____

Dropout Rate: _____

Attendance Rate: _____

Chronic Absenteeism Rate: _____

Number of Students Credit Deficient: _____

Number of Students in Credit Recovery: _____

Number of Students Completing Credit Recovery: _____

Number of Truancy Referrals: _____

Number of Home Visits: _____

Number of Parent Conferences: _____

Number of Students Referred to Ambunsmen: _____

Number of Students Returned to Good Standing: _____

Summary of Progress:

Concerns:

Recommended Actions:
