

Smith County School District



Dropout Prevention Plan 2026-2027

John King - Superintendent

Dropout Prevention Plan
2026-2027

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Dropout Prevention District Team Members

Team Member	Position	Signature
Mr. John King	Superintendent	
Mr. Morris Cascio	Administrator	
Mr. Evan Gordon	Administrator	
Dr. Nacole Adcock	Administrator	
Mr. Jeremiah Keyes	Administrator	
Mr. Mathew Hardin	Special Education Dir.	
	School Attendance Officer	
Mr. Nick Lee	Administrator	
Mr. Ben Barnes	Administrator	
Mr. Robert Hicks	Board President	



Demographic Data

Graduation Rate for ALL Students

Graduation Rate	
School Year	Rate
20 -21	89.9%
21-22	84%
22-23	90.8%
23-24	93.8%
24-25	85.2%
25-26	92.8%

Student Demographic Data

2025-2026 Student Demographic Data	
Students by Subgroup	Number
Female	1189
Male	1261
Asian	*
African American	685
Hispanic/ Latino	49
American Indian / Alaskan Native	*
White	1649
Two or more Races	58

2024-2025 Student Demographic Data	
Students by Subgroup	Number
Female	1183
Male	1204
Asian	7
African American	669
Hispanic/ Latino	23
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1
White	1624
Two or more Races	55

2023-2024 Student Demographic Data	
Students by Subgroup	Number
Female	1161
Male	1216
Asian	9
African American	666
Hispanic/ Latino	22
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1
White	1592
Two or more Races	51

2022-2023 Student Demographic Data	
Students by Subgroup	Number
Female	1188
Male	1196
Asian	9
African American	702
Hispanic/ Latino	22
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1
White	1607
Two or more Races	43

2021-2022 Student Demographic Data	
Students by Subgroup	Number
Female	1193
Male	1263
Asian	*
African American	716
Hispanic/ Latino	25
American Indian / Alaskan Native	*
White	1669
Two or more Races	43

2020 – 2021 Student Demographic Data	
Students by Subgroup	Number
Female	1190
Male	1263
Asian	*
African American	716
Hispanic/ Latino	23
American Indian / Alaskan Native	*
White	1669
Two or more Races	43

Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism	
School Year	Rate
2021-2022	13.7%
2022-2023	7.1%
2023-2024	8.6%
2024-2025	12.4%
2025-2026	21.3



District Goals

Goal 1: Focus Area – K-2 Course Performance – Data Source: Student Intervention Report

Decrease the number of students receiving Tier II/ III or retained in grades K-2 by 3%, through curriculum alignment, as measured by the Student Intervention Report by the end of the 2027 school term.
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Actionable Steps/ Plan to Progress Monitor:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ District will continue the Pre- K program through the State Invested Pre-K grant▪ Monitor student outcomes on classroom and district data (KRA and Brigance)▪ Identify and intervene with those students who show signs of struggling academically at onset▪ Monitor grades, discipline and attendance▪ Inform parents and community of curriculum changes and the projected outcomes |
|--|

Goal 2: Focus Area - Attendance – Chronic Absenteeism - Data source District Report Card

Decrease chronic absenteeism by 3% through the establishment of partnerships with the local attendance office, parents and through the successful implementation of PBIS, as measured by monthly attendance reports and the District Report provided by MDE, by the end of the 2027 school year.
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Actionable Steps/ Plan to Progress Monitor:

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identify students who are considered at-risk for chronic absence based on attendance the previous year and within the first two months of schools. This done by working closely with the School Attendance Officer▪ Develop a definition of Chronic absence to be used district wide▪ Develop action plans for attendance that includes both parent and students▪ Educate parents on the importance of school attendance |
|---|

Goal 3: Focus Area – Graduation Rate – Data Source – District 5 year graduation trends

Sustain a 90% graduation rate, through supportive measures such as academic counseling and parent engagement opportunities focused on graduation and specifically the 7-12 grade range, as measured by the District Graduation rate by the end of the 2027 school term.

Actionable Steps/ Plan to Progress Monitor :

- Counselors create an individualized graduation plan for students based on students' career and education goals.
- Proactive response and monitoring of students that may be At- Risk of not graduating through the assistance of District Early Warning System(EWS) team
- Educate parents on course requirements for graduation; include parents in planning to support students who are struggling to meet requirements.

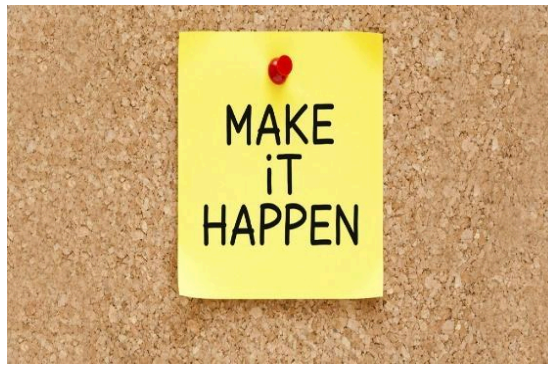


Goal 4: Focus Area – Recovery – Dropout recovery initiatives

1-2% increase in the number of students ages 17-21 who have dropped out who are eligible for re-entry by providing the necessary support systems, as measured by graduation requirements met by those students who re-enter.

Actionable Steps/ Plan to Progress Monitor:

- Collection of data to identify students who meet dropout indicators.
- Recovery initiatives will be in place to provide information and resources for students who are eligible for re-enrollment on diploma track.



Dropout Prevention/Restructuring Plan Assurances Page

On behalf of Smith County School District, I hereby submit the Dropout Prevention/Restructuring Plan to provide goals, activities, and services 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 students age 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: Mr. John King

Signature: _____

Date: _____

School Board Chair: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____