

# **South Tippah School District**

## **Dropout Prevention-Restructuring**

### **Plan 2023 – 2024**



**Superintendent**  
**Tony Elliott**

South Tippah School District  
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# Table of Contents

I. Why write the plan?

II. Dropout Prevention Team Members

III. Our schools

IV. Graduation Rate

V. Summary of Data

VI. Strategies for:

*A. Reducing the Retention Rates in Grades K – 2*

*B. Assisting our Subgroups*

*C. Dropout Recovery Initiatives*

*D. Transitioning from juvenile detention centers to their home  
school*

VII. Board Agenda (board approval of the plan)

VIII. Superintendent's letter of attestation for presentation to the board

## Why Write the Plan?



State law requires each school district to develop and implement an annual dropout prevention plan and 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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
Ruby Bennett	Assistant Superintendent
Anita Hood	Ripley High Assistant Principal
Liz Elliott	Blue Mountain School Assistant Principal
Chris Shinall	Pine Grove Assistant Principal
Amy Adams	TCTC Student Services
Rhonda Horton	Special Education Transition Teacher
Libby Ward	Work Based Learning Coordinator
Chris Lewellen	Tippah County Development Foundation Director
Ann Holmes	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
Carol Orman	Career Coach

## My School

The South Tippah School District is home to 2,530 students. The district's ethnic make-up is approximately 64% white, 27% black and 9% Hispanic. The district's graduation rate has risen from 79.5% in 2014 to 95.6% 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), 1<sup>st</sup> 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 315 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 621 and an accountability rating of B. 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 575 and an accountability rating of B. It is located in the City of Ripley.

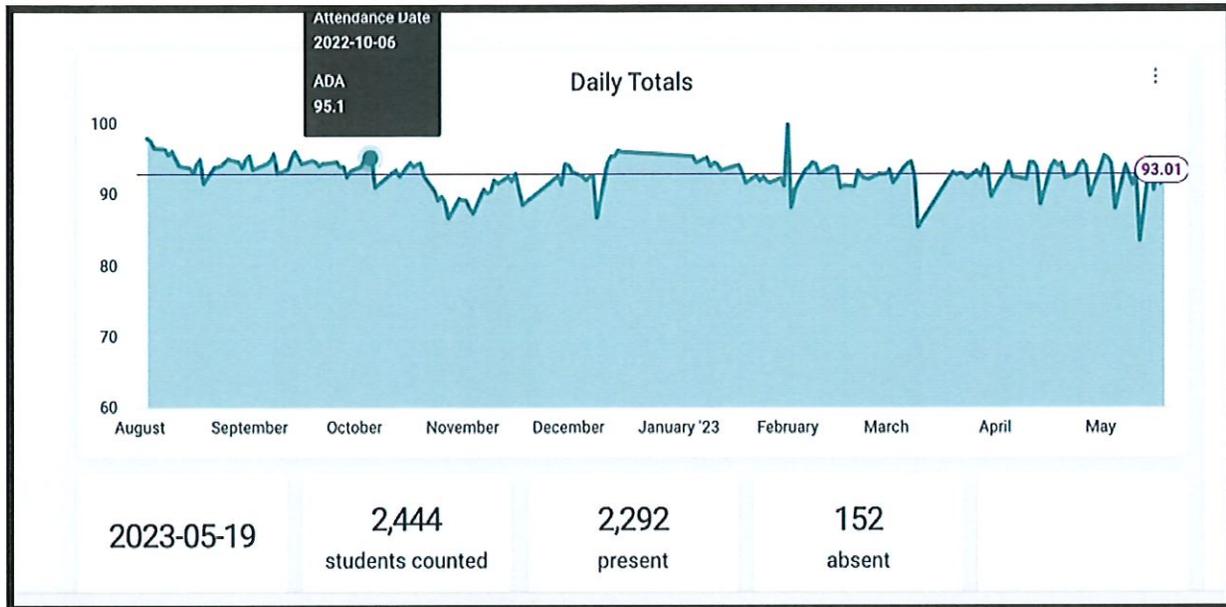
Ripley Middle School is a 5-8 school with an enrollment of 474 and an accountability rating of B. It is located in the City of Ripley adjacent to the Ripley High Campus and the District Office Building.

Ripley High School is a 9-12 school with an enrollment of 475 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.

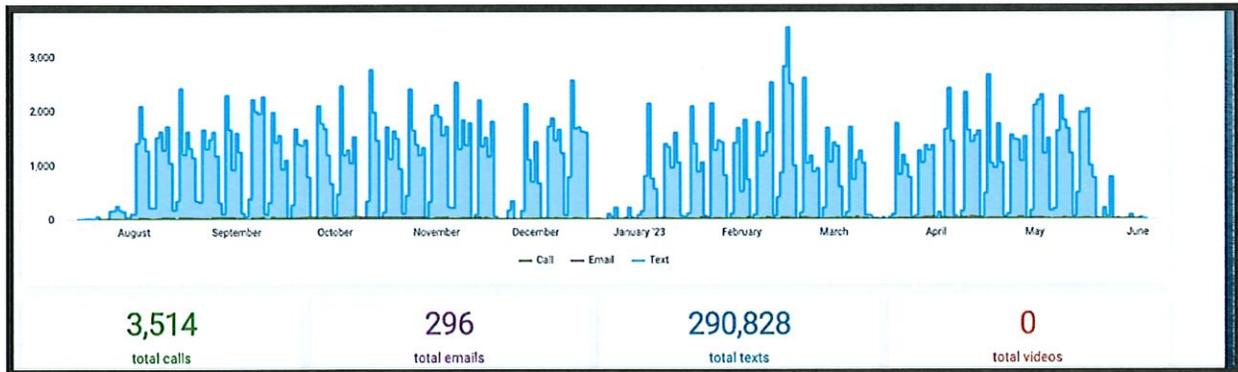
South Tippah Pre-K is a 3-4-year-old pre-K with an enrollment of 37 regular education students and 20 special education students. Parents pay \$200 per month tuition to attend. The school is located between Ripley and Blue Mountain.

Tippah Career and Technology Center serves the students of both North and South Tippah School Districts with a total enrollment of 305 with 170 of those students belonging to the South Tippah School District. The five 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



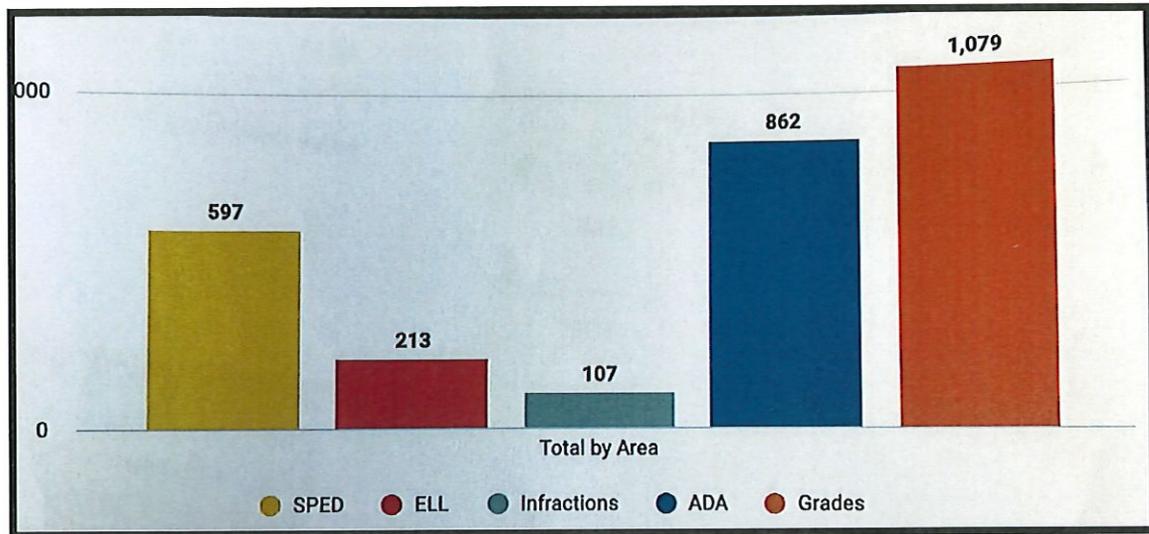
# Teacher/Parent Engagement



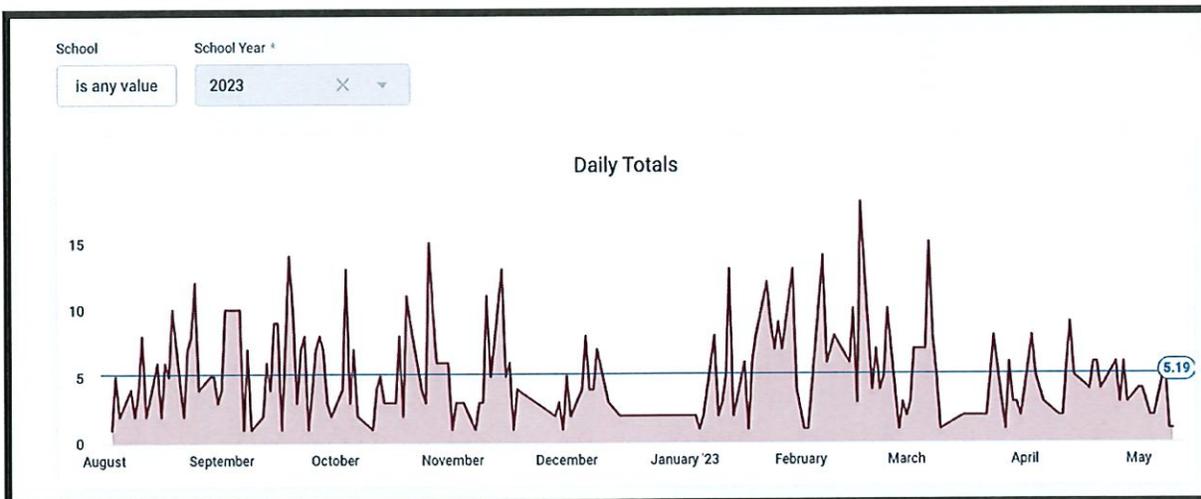
# Poverty Rates

Blue Mountain	Pine Grove	Ripley Elem	Ripley High	Ripley Middle
91%	59%	75%	62%	77%

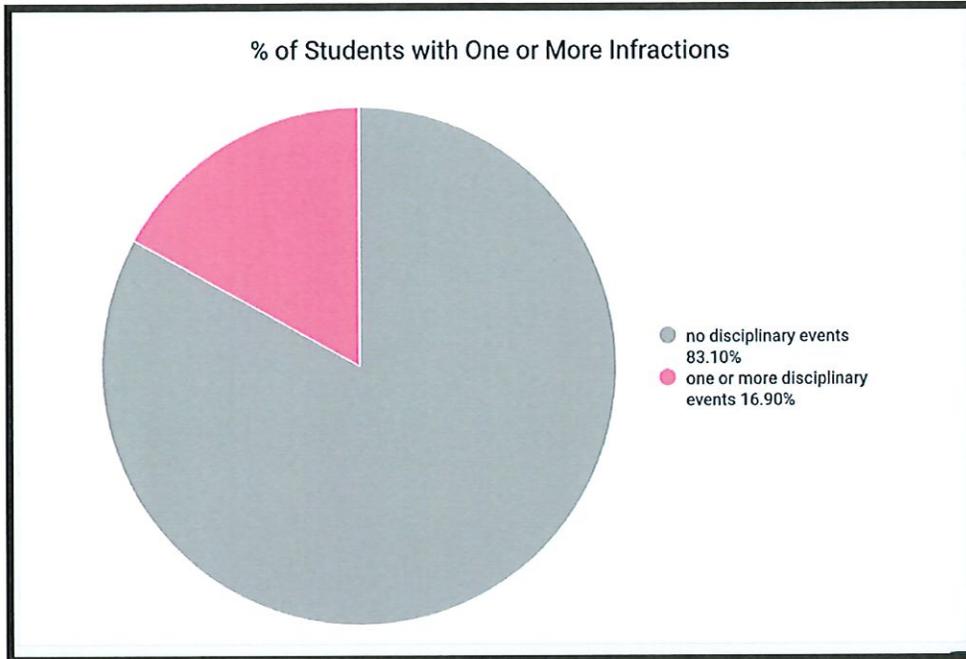
## At Risk Categories



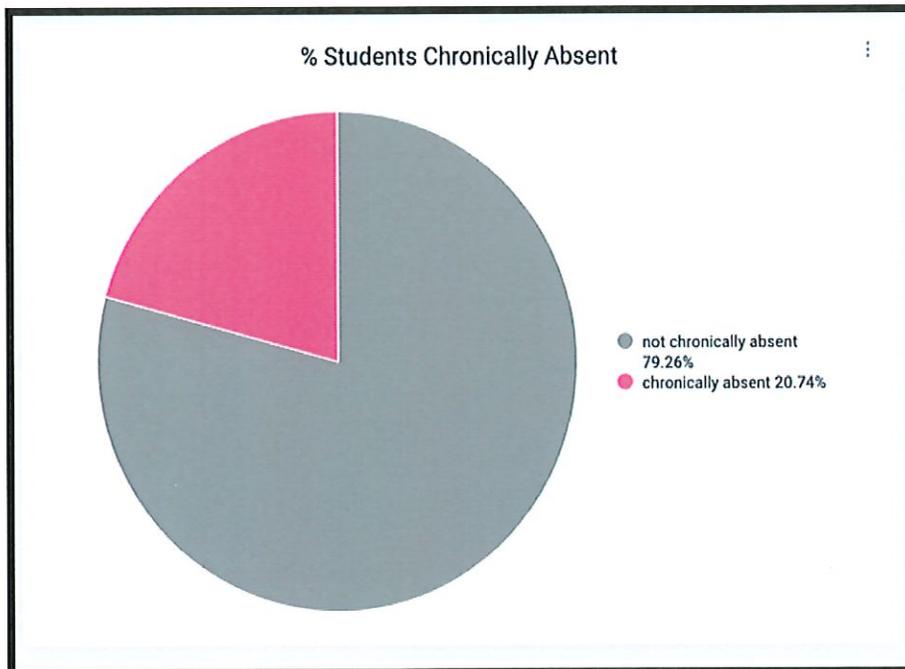
## Disciplinary Infraction Rate



## Disciplinary Recidivism Rate



## Truancy Rate



## Graduation Rate

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ripley	89.76	94	93	96
Blue Mountain	86.6	84.2	100	93
Pine Grove	81.6	91	95	95
South Tippah	92.68	98.3	96.81	94.15

## Dropout Rate

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ripley	4.72	1.7	0.82	3.81
Blue Mountain	6.66	15.7	0	7.15
Pine Grove	14.28	0	2.3	5.16
South Tippah	7.32	1.7	3.19	4.44

## Next Steps for Seniors

Class of 2023	RHS	PGS	BMS
Senior College	21.00%	8%	0
Junior College	69.00%	61%	92%
Work Force	10%	30%	8%

## Kindergarten MKAS Scores

Year	August	April	Growth
2018	501	746	245
2019	490	762	272
2021	480	698	218
2022	474	706	232
2023	485	705	220

## Third Grade Summative Assessment

Year	# who failed	# of students	Percent who failed
2015	21	262	8%
2016	23	205	11%
2017	25	237	10.50%
2018	7	206	3.40%
2019	47	206	22.00%
2022	43	185	23%
2023	18	153	12%

## English Language Arts

### Percent Proficient and Advanced-MAAP 2022

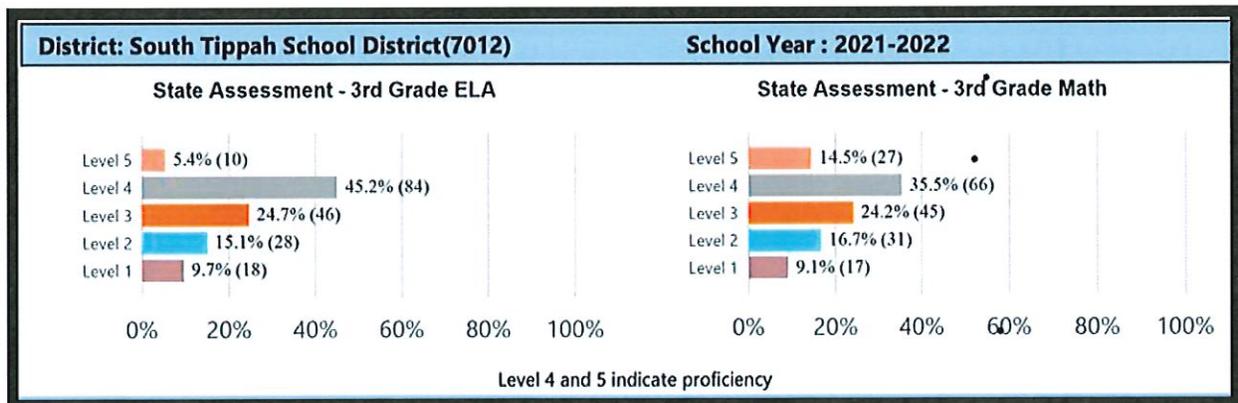
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 grade	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	English II
50%	35.8%	46%	32.8%	31.4%	28.9%	49%

## Mathematics

### Percent Proficient and Advanced-MAAP 2022

3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	7 grade	8 <sup>th</sup> grade	Algebra I
28.4%	51.4%	44.5%	46.9%	61.3%	35.7%	84%

### 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

# 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, Early Literacy and 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) Tony Elliott (Signature here)   
Date 7/18/23

School Board Chair: (Print Name here) Kerry Cockrell (Signature here)   
Date 7/18/23