

2026

## Mississippi Policy Priorities

Teach Plus believes that all students should have the opportunity to achieve their potential in an education system defined by its commitment to opportunity, responsiveness to individual needs, and ability to prepare students for postsecondary success. We support teacher leaders across Mississippi in exercising their leadership to shape education policy, advancing equity, opportunity, and student success.

Mississippi has received national recognition for the gains our 3rd and 4th grade students have made in literacy. We now have the opportunity to build on that momentum and ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for postsecondary success. Through the state-level work of Teach Plus Mississippi Policy Fellows, along with the local work of Teach Plus Mississippi Delta Change Agents, we are focused on advancing policy solutions that can significantly improve the college and career readiness of our students.

### **Teach Plus teacher leaders are prioritizing policy goals in three areas that will boost college and career readiness for students:**

1. Increase data collection and access, empowering more Mississippians with actionable information about rates of student postsecondary readiness and success.
2. Build high-quality high school courses and diploma pathways to prepare students for their career interests.
3. Implement and eventually scale best practices and interventions to support students and families in exploring college and career pathways, with a particular focus on rural communities furthest from opportunity.

## Student Success Plans

**Goal: Inform the development and expansion of Individual Success Plans (ISPs).** Teach Plus Mississippi Policy Fellows and Delta Change Agents are helping shape this Mississippi Department of Education tool that helps students explore and pursue career pathways. As more districts adopt ISPs, students will have better guidance on career options, while districts gain data to inform academic decisions and career exploration opportunities.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + [MS Public School Accountability Standards \(2025\), Process Standard 14.1.1](#)
- + [MDE Guidance for Educators](#)

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Individual Success Plans for Successful Students](#)
- + [Support for the Bridge-to-Career Course](#)
- + [Strengthening Mississippi's Career Coaching System](#)

## Accessible Data Systems

**Goal: Advocate for adoption of a robust state longitudinal data system (SLDS).** Teach Plus teacher leaders are championing increased state funding, improved data-sharing agreements, and user-friendly reports and dashboards that will allow Mississippi to track student progress from pre-K through the workforce—essential to reaching the state's goal of having 55% of adults earn a postsecondary credential.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + [MS Legislative Code Section 37-154-1: SLDS](#)
- + [SLDS Governing Board Rules and Regulations](#)
- + [SB 2524](#)

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Moving from Data to Action: Recommendations from Teach Plus MS Policy Fellows](#)

## Building On Literacy Success

**Goal: Expand science of reading strategies to middle grades.** Teach Plus Mississippi teacher leaders are studying middle school literacy pilots in grades 4-8 to inform state policy that brings the same science of reading-aligned resources, teacher development, and interventions that drove Mississippi's nationally recognized early literacy gains to older students.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + [SB 2487](#)
- + [HB 810](#)
- + [HB 1213](#)

### Teach Plus Resources:

- + [Building on Our Literacy Success: Recommendations from Teach Plus MS Policy Fellows](#)

## School Staffing Redesign Models

**Goal: Advocate for implementation of innovative staffing models.** Teach Plus Mississippi teacher leaders are exploring staffing redesigns that create new leadership opportunities for teachers while improving teacher development, school climate, and student outcomes—ultimately helping more students graduate ready for postsecondary success.

### Relevant Legislation or State Policy:

- + [HB 1606](#)

