

Laurel School District



Dropout Prevention Plan

2020-2021

Part I. Dropout Prevention Plan Team Members

School District: Laurel School District

Superintendent: Dr. Toy L. Watts

Signature: _____

Administrator: Dr. Kenitra Ezi

School: Central Services

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Principal: Dr. Michael Eubanks

School: Laurel High School

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Principal: Ms. Kristina Pollard

School: Laurel Middle School

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Principal: Dr. Kiana Pendleton

School: Laurel Magnet School of the Arts

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Principal: Ms. Shanetra Addae

School: Laurel Upper Elementary School

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Administrator: Mrs. Christine Beeker

School: Mason Elementary School

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Administrator: Ms. Trystal Watson

School: Oak Park Elementary School

Signature: _____

Elementary Middle High

Part II. Statement of Assurance

On behalf of the Laurel School District, I hereby submit a local Dropout Prevention Plan to provide goals, activities, and services necessary to meet the three overarching goals of the state dropout prevention plan: 1) increasing the state graduation rate to 85% by 2018-2019; 2) reduce the state dropout rate by 50% by 2012-2013; and 3) reducing the truancy rate by 50% by 2012-2013.

I hereby certify that the information contained in this plan complies with the appropriate federal and state laws and regulations.

I hereby certify that our school district will submit reports as requested by the Mississippi Department of Education.

I hereby certify that our school district has consulted with school staff and others in the development of this local dropout prevention plan.

I hereby certify that our school district has taken into account relevant, scientifically based research, strategies and best practices indicating services most effective in preventing dropouts if we focused on students in the earliest grades.

I hereby certify that our school district has based the dropout prevention plan on scientifically based research, best practices and all laws in determining the strategies to reduce the dropout rate of students with disabilities under IDEA.

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.

Dropout Prevention Team Leader: Dr. Kenitra Ezi Title: Asst. Superintendent/Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Mailing Address: 303 West 8th Street, Laurel, MS 39441

District Superintendent: Dr. Toy L. Watts

Signature

School Board President: Dr. James Johnson-Hill

Signature

Part III. 2018-2019 District Data Form

District Name: Laurel School District

2020 4 Year Graduation Rate: 90%

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on school closures in the FY20 school year and a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education, the MS Department of Education (MDE) has no assessment and accountability data to report for the 2019-2020 school year.

School Data						
	Elementary School		Middle School		High School	
Number of Schools	4		1		1	
Cumulative Enrollment	1648		680		740	
Counselor/Student Ratio	4: 1648		2: 680		3: 740	
Student Demographic Data						
	Elementary		Middle		High	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Female	819	49.70%	329	48.38%	390	52.70%
Male	829	50.30%	351	51.62%	352	47.57%
Asian	3	<1%	0	<1%	5	<1%
Black	1362	82.65%	584	85.88%	669	90.41%
Hispanic	189	11.47%	83	12.21%	48	6.49%
American Indian	4	<1%	0	<1%	0	<1%
Pacific Islander	0	<1%	0	<1%	0	<1%
White	88	5.34%	13	1.91%	18	2.43%
MAAP Data – Percent Proficient or Above (based on data from Spring '19)						
	Language Arts			Math		
Grade 3	29%			35%		
Grade 4	32%			36%		
Grade 5	27%			32%		
Grade 6	16%			23%		
Grade 7	21%			35%		
Grade 8	17%			16%		

High School Subject Area Tests – Percent Proficient or Above (based on data from Spring ‘19)			
Algebra I	US History	Biology I	English II
26.8%	21.9%	33%	23.7%
Additional District Information			
Number of GED Option Program Students 0		Number of Students Taking the GED Test 0	
Number of GED option Program Students Successfully Completing a GED 0		Number of Students Passing One or More Sections of the GED Test 0	
Average Length of Time Spent in GED Option Program <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Months <input type="checkbox"/> one year <input type="checkbox"/> two years <input type="checkbox"/> more than two years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
Number of Discipline Referrals 2615		Does your district currently offer a “Fast-Track” Program for high school students? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Number of Students with Five (5) Unexcused Absences 1297		Number of Students with 12 or More Unexcused Absences 399	
Number of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Meals 100%			
Please add any additional or unique data elements in this section:			

Part IV. Needs Assessment Outcomes

In this section, please describe the major outcomes from your district needs assessment, as they address the following areas. Note: Based on the outcomes of your district needs assessment, you may wish to divide this area into various sub-sections (i.e., student based, staff based, school based, project oriented, etc.)

Needs Assessment Areas	Descriptions
Target Group Identified	<p>Students in K-1 that have been retained at least one time</p> <p>Students in grades 3-8 who have been retained more than once</p> <p>Students who are overage entering 9th grade cohort</p> <p>Students who score level 1, 2, and 3 on MAAP and those in the bottom 25% on state assessments</p> <p>Students who do not meet requirements for passing state subject area assessments required for graduation</p> <p>Students who score below the cut score for Kindergarten readiness and 3rd Grade Summative Assessments</p> <p>Students who have 5 or more discipline referrals</p> <p>Students who have 5 or more unexcused absences</p>
Data Collection Methods Used	<p>Title I Comprehensive Needs Assessment Instrument (student/parent/faculty/community)</p> <p>SAM7 – District student database for grades, attendance, discipline, etc.</p> <p>State Assessment Results (MAAP, MKAS, etc.)</p> <p>Attendance, Behavior, and Academics (ABA) Reports</p>
Prioritized List of Needs	<p>Improve Climate and Culture in buildings by addressing: Attendance and Student Motivation</p> <p>Decrease Discipline Referrals</p> <p>Increase Parental Involvement</p> <p>Provide Opportunities for Academic Achievement for All Students</p> <p>Improve Student achievement on MAAP and other state required assessments.</p>
Short Term Goals	<p>1) Improve average student attendance (ADA) to 96% overall by May 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Develop motivation for student achievement and parental involvement 3) Improve fidelity of MTSS to ensure all students receive high quality, research-based interventions in a timely manner, when necessary
Long Term Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Maintain student three-year dropout rate to 14.3% or less (currently 16.3%) 2) Maintain district four-year cohort graduation rate to 85% or higher (currently 77%)
Recommendations for future needs assessments	

Part V. Current District Initiatives

In this section, please list each of your current district dropout prevention initiatives, demonstrating how they fit with the 15 Effective Strategies from the National Dropout Prevention Center Network (NDPC/N) and for the various school levels. Each initiative should be related to the three overarching goals of: increasing the district graduation rate; reducing the district dropout rate; and reducing the district truancy rate. Please provide an elaboration of each program on separate attachments, labeled Appendix A – Current District Initiatives.

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Systemic Renewal	SPP/APR report all indicators	SPP/APR report	SPP/APR report all indicators	SPP/APR report all indicators	SPP/APR report all indicators
School-Community Collaboration	Community Events State of the District meeting Key Stakeholder meetings SPP/APR Indicator 13 & 14	Speech Language Pathologists provide services to eligible students.	Character Education SEL School Wide Plan Career Day Transition/Team Building Day for 5 th to 6 th graders Community Mentors	Character Education SEL School Wide Plan Career Day Community Service by Students Guest/Motivational Speakers Transition/Team Building Day for 5 th to 6 th graders D.A.R.E. Community Walk	Character Education Career Days Community Service by Students Community Speakers Community Scholarships Celebration Graduation Vape & Tobacco (teach about effects of use) Jr. ROTC FIVE (Mentoring Initiative)
Safe Learning Environments	District Safety Guidelines School Nurses School Resource Officers SPP/APR Indicator 4	Early Childhood Guidelines/Regulations	Ren Rallies	Renaissance	Renaissance
Family Engagement	Active Parent Broadcast through School Status MTSS/TST SPP/APR Indicators 1,2, & 8 WiFi from community partnerships	Child Find announcements through the office of Special Education	Josten’s Ren Rallies Parent Conferences Orientation Open House (Virtual) Family Night Events/Parent Academy PTO	Josten’s Renaissance Parent Conferences Orientation Open House (Drive-thru) Family Night Updates on Social Media	Josten’s Renaissance Parent Conferences Freshman Orientation Open House (Virtual) College/Career Recruitment Day (Thru “Get to College”)

			Updates on Social Media Make a Difference Day	Parent Newsletter	College Night Updates on Social Media College/Career Academic Signing Day
15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Early Childhood Education	Head Start Early Transition Meetings & Tours PreK classrooms Part C to B for Coordination of Services SPP/APR Indicator 6 & 7	PreK classrooms at Laurel Magnet School of the Arts, Mason, and Oak Park Elementary Head Start Programs within the District	PreK classrooms at Laurel Magnet School of the Arts, Mason, and Oak Park Elementary	N/A	N/A
Early Literacy Development	Administration invites Head Start & Early Childhood Center staff to attend Professional Development pertaining to literacy skills Dyslexia Screeners, Language Screeners, MTSS SPP/APR Indicators 3,5, 6, & 7	Head Start programs within the District Child Find for Part C to B	LETRS PreK classrooms offered at Oak Park and Nora Davis Magnet Extended Year (ESY) MTSS Phonics First	Interventionist Extended Day/Year Grades (ESY) 6-8 MTSS Phonics for Reading	MTSS
Mentoring/Tutoring	SPP/APR Indicators 1,2, 4, 5, 13, & 14		Community Mentors Edge	Pinebelt Mental Health Services Mentoring Groups Edge	Career Mentoring Pinebelt Mental Health Services
Service-Learning	SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 13, & 14		Canned food drive		Elective Credit for Community Service Jr. ROTC Service Club

15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Alternative School and Juvenile Detention Center Placement (JDC)	<p>Students are referred by administrators to the Laurel Education Center due to disciplinary or academic issues.</p> <p>SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, & 14</p>			<p>6th – 12th Grade Laurel Education Center</p> <p>Alt School: Transition meetings are held prior to review each student's data and progress towards meeting the goals outlined in the IIP to ensure a smooth transition back to each student's home school.*</p> <p>JDC: Each student receives an IAP (Individualized Academic Plan) upon his/her return back to their home school the team reviews and shares it with the home school.</p>	<p>6th – 12th Laurel Education Center</p> <p>Alt School: Transition meetings are held prior to review each student's data and progress towards meeting the goals outlined in the IIP to ensure a smooth transition back to each student's home school.*</p> <p>JDC: Each student receives an IAP (Individualized Academic Plan) upon his/her return back to their home school the team reviews and shares it with the home school.</p>
After-School Opportunities	SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, & 14		Extended Day/Extended Year	<p>Extended Day/Extended Year</p> <p>Middle School Athletics</p> <p>HS Marching Band</p> <p>Clubs</p>	<p>Extended Year</p> <p>Clubs</p> <p>Athletics</p> <p>Tutoring in all Subject Areas</p> <p>Detention</p> <p>Credit Recovery</p>

Professional Development	District-wide Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)		Tornado Academy	Tornado Academy	Tornado Academy
	MTSS/TST		i-Ready	Bullying Prevention	Differentiated Instruction
	GCEIC		Differentiated Instruction	i-Ready	Block Scheduling
	MDE		Ready Reading/Math	Differentiated Instruction	Technology
	Faculty Meetings		Technology	Ready Reading/Math	College and Career Ready Standards
	SPP/APR Indicators		College and Career Ready Standards	Technology	Standards-based instruction/ Assessments
	Tornado Academy		Phonics First	College and Career Ready Standards	Using data to drive instruction
			Standards-based instruction/ Assessments	Standards-based instruction/ Assessments	Blended Learning
			Using data to drive instruction	Using data to drive instruction	MTSS
			Blended Learning	Blended Learning	Edgenuity
			MTSS	MTSS	Bullying Prevention
				Edgenuity	
15 Dropout Prevention Strategies	School/Grade Level				
	District	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Active Learning	Laptops/ Chromebooks		i-Ready	i-Ready	Blended Learning with Edgenuity
	SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5		Ready Reading/Math	Blended Learning	Jr. ROTC
			Accelerated Reader	Ready Reading/Math	
			Accelerated Math		
			Laptops/ Chromebooks		
Educational Technology	Active Parent		i-Ready	i-Ready	Edgenuity
	Computer Labs		Interactive Boards	Interactive Boards	Interactive boards
	Chromebook Carts		Chromebook Carts	Chromebook Carts	Chromebook Carts
	SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, & 8				
Individualized Instruction	Class Size Reduction K-12 (MS/HS)		i-Ready	i-Ready	Edgenuity
	MTSS		MTSS	MTSS	Learning Strategies Classes
	Individualized Education Programs (IEP)			Tutorial/Learning Strategies Classes	
	Individual Instructional Programs (IIP)				

	Individual Student Plans (ISPs)				
	SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, & 10				
Career & Technical Education (CTE)	SPP/APR Indicators 1, 2, 4, 5, 13, & 14			Cyber Foundations	Foundations of Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts Welding Construction/Electric Health Sciences Digital Media Teacher Academy Software Development

15 Dropout Recovery Initiatives	School/Grade Level				
	District	Pre-Kindergarten	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
					*During the FY21 school year, the district and high school will begin researching opportunities for students between the ages of 17-21 who have dropped out of school to get back on track: (i.e. review MS Works, consider adult-learning opportunities, partnerships with EDA and local community colleges, etc..).

Part VI. Proposed District Initiatives

Please complete the chart below for each of your district’s proposed dropout prevention initiatives. For each proposed initiative, you should detail the following information:

- Proposed Initiative – provide either an official title for a program or position to be filled, or the proposed working title.
- Grade level addressed – not whether the proposed initiative may be applicable to the entire district, or whether it will specifically address a particular grade level.
- Purpose or goal – provide a brief description of the purpose or goal of the initiative
- Who is involved – list the names and titles for the individuals who will be involved in the planning and implementation of this initiative
- Proposed cost – provide an estimated cost for the initiative, including costs associated with areas such as planning, supplies, implementation, etc.
- Timeline for implementation – note the amount of time needed for actual program implementation
- Dropout prevention strategy addressed – indicate which of the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention will be addressed by the proposed initiative
- Expected outcomes for students – provide a listing of the district’s expected outcomes for the proposed initiatives as they relate to the at-risk student population.

Please provide an elaboration of each program on separate attachments, labeled Appendix B – Proposed District Initiatives.

Proposed Initiative	Grade Level Addressed (District, Pre-K, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, High)	Purpose or Goal	Who is involved?	Proposed Cost	Timeline	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Expected Outcomes for Students
Proposed Initiative	Elementary and Middle Schools: Ready Reading and Math	To increase the number of students mastering CCRS and to improve learning for all students.	K-8 Teachers Admin.	\$40,000	August 2018 to May 2019	Active Learning Early Lit. Dev.	Increased MAAP scores & overall learning
Proposed Initiative	Elementary and Middle Schools: iReady Diagnostic and Standards Mastery Assessments	To identify areas of deficit in student learning and in order to provide high quality and timely interventions in Reading and Math.	K-8 Teachers Admin.	\$60,000	August 2018 to May 2019	Indiv. Instruct. Edu. Tech.	Increased MAAP scores & overall learning

Part VII: Evaluating Effectiveness

Please complete the chart below to detail your district’s plan for evaluating both your current and proposed dropout prevention initiatives. For each initiative (current or proposed), you should note the following information:

- Performance indicators/method of evaluation – provide the measures your district either will use to determine effectiveness of the proposed initiative or related to the initiative’s purpose or goal. Performance indicators may include areas such as the following: increase in test scores; increased participation in extra curricular activities; decrease in student referrals; increase in parent participation, etc.
- Sources of data – describe what data to be used to support the performance indicators and how the data will be accessed.
- Dropout prevention strategy addressed – indicate which of the 15 Effective Strategies for Dropout Prevention is addressed in the proposed initiative.

Current/Proposed Initiative:	Performance Indicators	Sources of Data for Evaluation	Baseline Data (% , # or Rate)	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Goal Met? Yes or No
Current Initiative: Community Service by High School Students (Mentoring)	Increase impact and quality of services performed for in the community.	Feedback Sheets from Site Supervisors	2019-2020 Current Data from Feedback Sheets	School-Community Collaboration Service Learning	
Current Initiative: Community Scholarships	For the graduating class of 2020, the number of community scholarships to 64	Number of Local Scholarships Given in Spring 2020	FY20 30 Local Scholarships Awarded	School-Community Collaboration	
Current Initiative: CTEC	Increase the number of first year students that complete the program in two years 50% of two-year completers will qualify for community college scholarships by 2020	Student Transcripts Student End of Course Evaluations Community College List of Awarded Scholarships	2017-2018 Two-Year Completers (30/30) 100% CTEC Students Awarded Scholarships	Career and Technical Education Active Learning	
Current Initiative: Academic Awards Night	Increase the number of parents and community members attending Academic Awards Night	Sign-In sheets	2017-2018 Approximately 600 Parents/ Guests Attended Pirate Showcase	Family Engagement School-Community Collaboration	
Current Initiative Open House	Increase the percentage of parents attending K-12 open house to 85%.	Classroom Sign-In Sheets and School Summary Reports	FY20 approx. 80% of parents attended at least one open house.	Family Engagement	
Current/Proposed Initiative:	Performance Indicators	Sources of Data for Evaluation	Baseline Data (% , # or Rate)	Dropout Prevention Strategy Addressed	Goal Met? Yes or No

Current Initiative: Active Parent	Increase the number of parents enrolled in Active Parent	Enrollment Applications	2017-2018 612 Parents/ Guardians	Family Engagement Educational Technology	
Current Initiative: School Resource Officer	Decrease the number of incidents on campus that result in arrest	Police Department Data School Incident Reports	FY20 Arrests 10	Safe Learning Environments	
Current Initiative: District Safety Guidelines	100% of drills in compliance with safety requirements	Quarterly Drill Reports from Each School	2017-2018 97% of Drills in Compliance	Safe Learning Environments	
Current Initiative: Technology Foundations	Research Careers	Student Reports Course Survey Results	Course Survey	Career and Technical Education (CTE)	
Current Initiative: Class of....	Increase the number of students desiring to enroll in college	Student Surveys	Surveys	Engagement Career and Technical Education (CTE)	

Appendix A – Current District Initiatives

Current Initiative	Description of Initiative
Homecoming Parade	Annual event with parade, presentations, fun, food, and games. Information distributed throughout the school district.
District Safety Guidelines	The district has safety guidelines in place to protect school staff and students. Walk through visits are conducted as well as procedures in place for staff members to report concerns at each location.
School Nurses	School nurses provide students instruction to promote access to health care, prevent, and control diseases. They also provide instruction on methods to keep areas sanitary and promote safety in the school environment to ensure diseases are not passed among staff and students. Our nurses can provide counseling services for health concerns and facilitate a secure feeling for students to voice their concerns in regards to private health matters, which increases student performance in the classroom. They also work with other health care providers to bring information to students in regards to dental hygiene as well as other health related areas. Our nurses link students and families to health care providers in our area and facilitate obtaining medical records necessary for instructional or educational purposes. Our nurses also provide emergency health care to students while on school campuses.
School Resource Officers	Our school resource officers are used to protect staff and students from harmful events. They are liaisons between the school and community and provide each school an extra support to involve parents that are less willing to participate in school functions pertaining to their children.
Active Parent	This technology allows parents to view student grades, absences, and discipline in real time as teachers and school staff members input the data. This program also allows parents to post messages to their child's teachers.
Head Start Early Transition Meetings & Tours	This event allows parents and children of incoming preK and kindergarten students to view the K-5 campus, meet with teachers and administrators, and begin the transition from preschool settings to our district school campuses.
Laurel Education Center Alternative Education Program	Laurel Education Center accepts students referred by administrators due to disciplinary or academic issues.
Extended Day/After school tutorial	Extended Day allows students to participate in extra tutorial support after school hours using data to drive who qualifies to attend this service.
School Interventionists	Our school interventionists provide small group instruction to our struggling learners in through the MTSS process at Tier III level. The interventions are based on the need of the child according to student data.
Career Mentoring	Students are allowed to investigate careers and are put in contact with a person in that field to mentor and shadow.
District-wide PLCs	Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, our teachers will participate in Professional Learning Communities in an effort to align the College and Career Readiness Standards and ensure appropriate rigor at each level.
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)	Teacher Support Teams are designed to facilitate teams of teachers who review student data and determine the steps that should be taken in order to address the deficits.
Gulf Coast Education Initiative Consortium	GCEIC provides professional development in all areas for educational purposes.
Professional Learning Communities	Each school has developed PLCs to assist in aligning to the College and Career Readiness Standards as well as encourage teachers to plan together for student success.
Class Size Reduction	Title funds are considered annually for the need to support a smaller class sizes in an identified area or grade level, based on specific need. Funds are not able to be utilized to support an additional teacher if the current class size would necessitate adding a teacher based on regulations or accountability standards.
Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)	PTO promotes collaboration between the school and parents to assist with funds for extra activities throughout the school year.
Community Service by High School Students (mentoring)	Each year at Pass High, eligible Seniors have the opportunity to participate in assisting others through community service in either an on-campus, or off-campus experience during a portion of the regular school day. The experience is generally designed to help expose students to possible career options while allowing "give and take" mentoring possibilities. Community Service culminates in a structured-response portfolio assignment.

Community Scholarships	Many local organizations and volunteer groups award scholarships to LHS seniors in recognition of their accomplishments.
CTEC	LHS provides a wide variety of two-year career & technical courses which enable students to be career-ready upon graduation.
Open House	Open House is held near the beginning of the school year. Teachers open their classrooms to parents and students to discuss expectations and main points of the course. This provides an excellent opportunity for forming and strengthening relationships between teachers, parents, and students. Parents are able to sign-up for a web-based grade monitoring system during Open House, as well.
Ren Rallies	All schools have rallies numerous times throughout the school year to celebrate student success with academics, attitude, and effort. Students must earn this reward based on criteria set by the school.
Family Night	Family Night promotes parental involvement, provides parents the opportunity to make connections at the school to facilitate student progress.
Orientation	Orientation allows parents to meet with the school administrators as a whole group, find out the expectations of school, and ask questions or voice concerns.
Career Fair	Local organizations and professionals set a day to meet with students to discuss possible career fields.
Athletics	The district offers numerous athletic programs to students beginning in middle school through high school. Students must maintain criteria for eligibility.
Technology	Laurel School District has many technological devices in place for our students. Many teachers have Interactive Boards in their classrooms. All schools have computer labs available to students for research and assessment needs.
Exclusion Suspension	In an effort to reduce the number of students who are suspended out of school due to behavior or discipline infractions, the district is implementing exclusion suspension in lieu of out of school suspension. Student will be transported to a location off their traditional campus to be in supervised suspension. Services for students with disabilities will take place as per their Individualized Education Programs. All students will receive their class work from their home school teachers. They are expected to maintain their behavior and their class work while in exclusion.
Credit Recovery	Computer based master program of learning for students to recoup credits after they fail a course (50% of above required for credit recovery). Some students can be scheduled for one period in 9 weeks to complete credit recovery while others can participate in extended school year credit recovery over the summer.
Summer School	Students can earn 1 credit by completing designated class time during summer sessions.
Jr. ROTC	The District provides this experience for students in high school.