

**Three district schools
earned a rating of A
for the 2024-25 school year.**

**This is the seventh
year in a row the LCSD
has earned an A rating.**



LOWNDES COUNTY

School District

CALEDONIA • NEW HOPE • WEST LOWNDES • CAREER TECH

JACKSON – The Lowndes County School District (LCSD) maintained its A rating in the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) accountability results for the 2024–25 school year, released Thursday.

“Our district is proud to maintain an A rating for the seventh consecutive year,” LCSD Superintendent Dr. Sam Allison said. “We are grateful for the dedication of our teachers, administrators, students, and families.”

LCSD School Results

Caledonia High School earned an A rating and ranked 13th among Mississippi high schools with 820 points. New Hope High also sustained its A rating with 783 points. West Lowndes High remained a C school with 574 points.

At the lower levels, Caledonia Elementary (506 points) earned an A. Caledonia Middle (409 points) and New Hope Elementary (422 points)

each received Bs, while New Hope Middle earned a C with 336 points. West Lowndes Elementary received an F with 260 points, a decline from its B rating in 2023–24.

Superintendent’s Perspective

“While we are concerned by declines at a few campuses, we do not fully agree with portions of the current ratings,” Allison said. “As widely reported last year, irregularities with the statewide assessment led to the termination of the testing vendor and a subsequent adjustment of scores in grades 3–8 across the state. Those adjustments raised many accountability results between the initial and final releases. Because last year’s scores were elevated, the starting point for this year’s comparisons was inflated, making year-over-year growth harder to obtain.

“For the accountability model to accurately reflect performance, assessments must be consistent from year to year. This has not been the case over the past two years, which in my opinion contributed to the accountability drops statewide. With student growth carrying significant weight in the current accountability model, schools more dependent on growth were most affected.

“With that said, we remain committed to addressing the areas of concern. Our focus is on moving forward. We will use data we trust, concentrate on what we can control, and keep improving. We appreciate our community’s continued partnership and look forward to a strong school year.”

Statewide Trends

Across Mississippi, 80.1% of schools and 87.2% of districts earned a rating of C or higher. This marks a decrease from 2023–24, when 85.7% of schools and 93.9% of districts reached that level.

In 2016, the Mississippi State Board of Education established a goal that all schools and districts achieve a rating of C or higher. At that time, just 62% met the standard.

The [2024-25 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program \(MAAP\) results](#), released Aug. 21, 2025, showed both increases and decreases in proficiency rates across grade levels and subject areas, underscoring the challenges faced by schools statewide.

“While Mississippi has made historic progress over the past decade, the areas of declining achievement demand our immediate attention,” said Dr. Lance Evans, state superintendent of education. “The accountability grades provide important data to guide our work moving forward. Mississippi students have proven they can achieve at higher levels, and we owe it to them to continue challenging and supporting them so every graduate is prepared for lifelong success.”

Accountability Components

Mississippi’s accountability ratings are designed to inform educators, parents, and communities about how effectively schools and districts are serving students. For the 2024–25 school year, the ratings were based on:

- Student proficiency and growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3–8
- Growth of the lowest-performing 25% of students in ELA and mathematics
- Science proficiency in grades 5 and 8
- English Learner progress toward language proficiency
- Performance on the ACT, ACT WorkKeys, and high school assessments in Algebra I, English II, Biology, and U.S. History

- Student achievement in advanced coursework, including Advanced Placement, career and technical education, and dual credit/dual enrollment
- The four-year graduation rate