

# Outside-the-classroom K-12 spending balloons despite fewer students and teachers

**Press Release**  
 State Auditor Shad White released a report on Wednesday, April 17, which shows outside-the-classroom spending on administration and non-instruction activities has increased in Mississippi over the last decade, despite the fact that the number of K-12 students and classroom teachers has decreased during the same period. If outside-the-classroom spending had remained the same per student for the last decade, Mississippi could have had more than \$358 million to dedicate to spending in the classroom—enough for an \$11,000 teacher pay raise. “As the product of our public schools, the son of a retired public school teacher, and the grandson of two public school teachers, the issue of how we spend education dollars is incredibly important to me,” said Auditor White. “Education policymakers need to take a careful look at where our money is going, and they should explain why outside-the-classroom spending is

growing so much.” Through a months-long analysis of data from the Mississippi Department of Education, auditors found that overall K-12 spending increased in Mississippi over the last 10 years, but instructional costs increased more slowly than any other part of K-12 spending. At the same time, Mississippi has seen a decline in K-12 student enrollment.

If outside-the-classroom spending had decreased at the same rate as enrollment, Mississippi would spend \$358 million less on outside-the-classroom costs than what the state spends today. This amount is equivalent to an \$11,000 teacher pay raise. If outside-the-classroom spending had simply been kept the same over the last ten years, it would have yielded enough savings to fund for a \$9,000 teacher pay raise. “Common sense says that money spent on a high

quality teacher is the best way to use education funds. When money is spent on administrative costs, outside the classroom, we lose the chance to spend that money on teachers,” said White. “In Mississippi, we can’t afford to waste a single dollar on administrative costs when that money could be going to teachers.” While administrative costs have increased by 18% over the last ten years, the number of teachers has decreased by 8%. Some of the outside-

the-classroom spending accounts with the largest increases include administrative staff services (increased cost of 113% and includes operations, recruiting, training, and accounting) and information services (103% increase and includes costs for producing “educational and administrative information” for students, staff, managers, and the general public). The full report can be viewed online at the Auditor’s website by clicking “Reports.”

# Youth art contest ends May 10

Mississippi students are invited to get outdoors and participate in the 2019 North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Youth Art Contest. Each student must submit a portfolio including entry form and artwork to the Visitor Education Center (VEC) by May 10, 2019. The VEC is part of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks’ (MDWFP) North Mississippi Fish Hatchery located at Exit 233 east off I-55 at Enid. The contest is sponsored by the Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Winners in four age categories will have their work published in the Mississippi Outdoors magazine

and will receive a complimentary copy of the magazine displaying their work. Winners will also receive gift cards and have their work posted on the MDWFP website. For more information regarding entry forms and rules please visit <https://www.mdwfp.com/nmfh/educational-opportunities/> or call the VEC at (662) 563-8068. For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) or call us at (601) 432-2212. Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdwfp](http://www.facebook.com/mdwfp) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline](http://www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline).



The April meeting of the West Civic Club was held on the Wednesday the 17th, with 11 members present. We are proud to have Ms. Kathy Gelston become a member of this organization. Our hostesses for this month were Sue Cade and Sara McLellan. After our prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Sara intro-

duced Mrs. Julie Johnson Ballard, from the Attala County Co-Op, in Kosciusko. Julie has worked at various jobs within the co-op for the past several years. After the delicious refreshments provided by Sue Cade and Sara McLellan we voted on the officers for the upcoming season. They are Carol Black, president, Jean Aldridge, vice-

president, Sara McLellan, secretary, Leca Dew, treasurer, Inez Dickerson, will be doing the news reporting and scrapbooks for the club. These people will be inducted at our annual May trip and luncheon out. This year we will be going to Jody Jacksons garden with lunch at the Tracks in Winona. Our trip is May 15 and members are to meet at the club room at 9:30 a.m. The next order of business was finishing off the details of our West School Reunion, May 4, in West at the grammar school, anyone who went to school in West is invited to attend but you must call Mrs. Ruth Aldridge at

662-967-0021 by the 26th of this month and let her know you plan to attend. This way we will know how much food we need to prepare. Mr. Jerry Tate will provide our memorial with pictures and comments about the different people who have passed on. This is our annual fund raising project and hope that you will attend and visit with friends and former classmates. At this time there is no further information as to whether we are approved for our grant application and also the East Holmes Academy Monument. Carol led us in the Collect and the meeting was adjourned.



**ADDICTION HELP**  
 Narconon reminds families that abuse of heroin and opioid drugs has become a national health crisis. Learn to recognize the signs of heroin abuse and get your loved one help if they are at risk. Call today for free screenings or referrals at 1-800-431-1754. 4-18,25

will host its Annual Family and Friends Day on Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m. 4-18,25

**MT. CALVARY M.B.C.**  
 Mt. Calvary M.B. Church in Tchula will host its Annual Friends and Family Day Program on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. 4-18,25

Sunday, May 5. 4-25;5-2

**WALDEN CHAPEL**  
 Walden Chapel UMC in Goodman will host its Annual Musical Extravaganza on Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m. 4-25

community health will be set up. There will also be a petting zoo. Vendors can apply for the festival at Lexington City Hall, 112 Spring Street or call 662-834-1261 for more info. 4-18,25;5-2

**LEBANON MB CHURCH**  
 Lebanon M.B. Church will host their Annual Home Mission Society prayer breakfast at 8:15 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:15 a.m. at the church on Saturday, April 27. 4-25

**WEST GROVE M.B.C**  
 West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will hold its Musician’s 17th Year Appreciation Service on Sunday, April 28 at 11 a.m. 4-18,25

**MOUNT SINAI M.B.C**  
 Mount Sinai M.B.C. will host its Family and Friends Week from April 29 through May 1 at 7:00 nightly. 4-25

**MEMBER MPA**  
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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
**In Holmes County - \$35.00**  
**In Mississippi - \$40.00**  
**Outside Mississippi - \$50.00**

**NCPDD**  
 The North Central Planning and Development District area agency on aging will host an Over 60 Celebration on Wednesday, May 29, at the Montgomery County Coliseum from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 4-25;5-2

**WEST HILL CME**  
 West Hill CME Church will host its Pre-Mother’s Day Homecoming Program on Sunday, May 5 at 11:45 a.m. 4-25;5-2

**GREENSBOROUGH**  
 Greensborough M.B. Church in Durant will hold its Annual Rally Day Program celebrating 138 years of establishment at 11 a.m.,

**ST. JOSEPH C.O.G.I.C.**  
 St. Joseph C.O.G.I.C. in West will hold the Table’s Family and Friends Day Program on Sunday, April 28 at 1 p.m. with Sunday school at 11:30 a.m. 4-25

**LEX. SPRING FEST**  
 The city of Lexington Spring Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Lexington Court Square. The band, Mississippi Sons, will perform. The Acton Children’s Business Fair and a

community health will be set up. There will also be a petting zoo. Vendors can apply for the festival at Lexington City Hall, 112 Spring Street or call 662-834-1261 for more info. 4-18,25;5-2



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