

Mississippi: A public education success leader

Students, teachers and administrators across Mississippi are rewriting the old story of low achievement for public education. A new chapter of unprecedented academic progress has begun.

If you haven't heard the exciting news, Mississippi is the only state in the nation to show significant increases in three of the four core subjects for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2019. Nationally, scores for most NAEP subjects dropped or remained flat from 2017 to 2019.

NAEP, the only national measure of student academic achievement that's comparable across all states, validates the historic advancement that Mississippi is making in student learning. That's right. Mississippi is a leader in public education!

Here are the facts, based on the 2019 NAEP results:

- Mississippi ranks No. 1 in the nation for 4th grade score gains in reading and mathematics. For the first time, Mississippi 4th graders scored higher than the national average in mathematics and tied the nation in reading.
- The percentage of Mississippi students scoring proficient or above on NAEP has increased significantly

over the past decade, particularly in 4th grade mathematics, where proficiency levels nearly doubled (22% to 39%).

- 8th grade students rank No. 3 for growth in mathematics, outpacing the nation's progress.
- 8th grade reading held steady as the national average dropped.
- Mississippi students living in poverty are outperforming their peers nationally. Both black and white students from low-income homes in Mississippi achieved higher scores than the national average in all four NAEP subjects. Hispanic students from low-income families outperformed their peers nationally in three of four NAEP tested subjects.

The 2019 results continue Mississippi's 10-year trend of steady increases on NAEP, as the nation's scores stagnate.

Lifting student achievement doesn't happen overnight, but through continued commitment to high expectations, we are seeing higher achievement.

Student achievement accelerated more rapidly since 2013, after the statewide implementation of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, higher academic standards with aligned assessments,

a strong accountability system, and a significant investment in professional development for educators.

The hard work and initiatives put in place are making a difference in students' lives and opening new doors of opportunities for college and careers.

Better schools also stimu-

late the development of business and industry, leading to a strong workforce and even stronger economy. We want employers to know that Mississippi's future workforce is prepared and ready for the jobs of tomorrow.

States are watching what has happened in Mississippi over the last several years.

I know because state education chiefs and elected officials in other states have asked me what we are doing to get the gains that we've seen. I tell them that Mississippi's teachers are some of the best education professionals in the nation, and our students are as talented and bright as students in any other state.

Is public education in Mississippi where it needs to be? Not yet. We have to keep adding more chapters to our success story to ensure that all students receive the same opportunity to grow and to

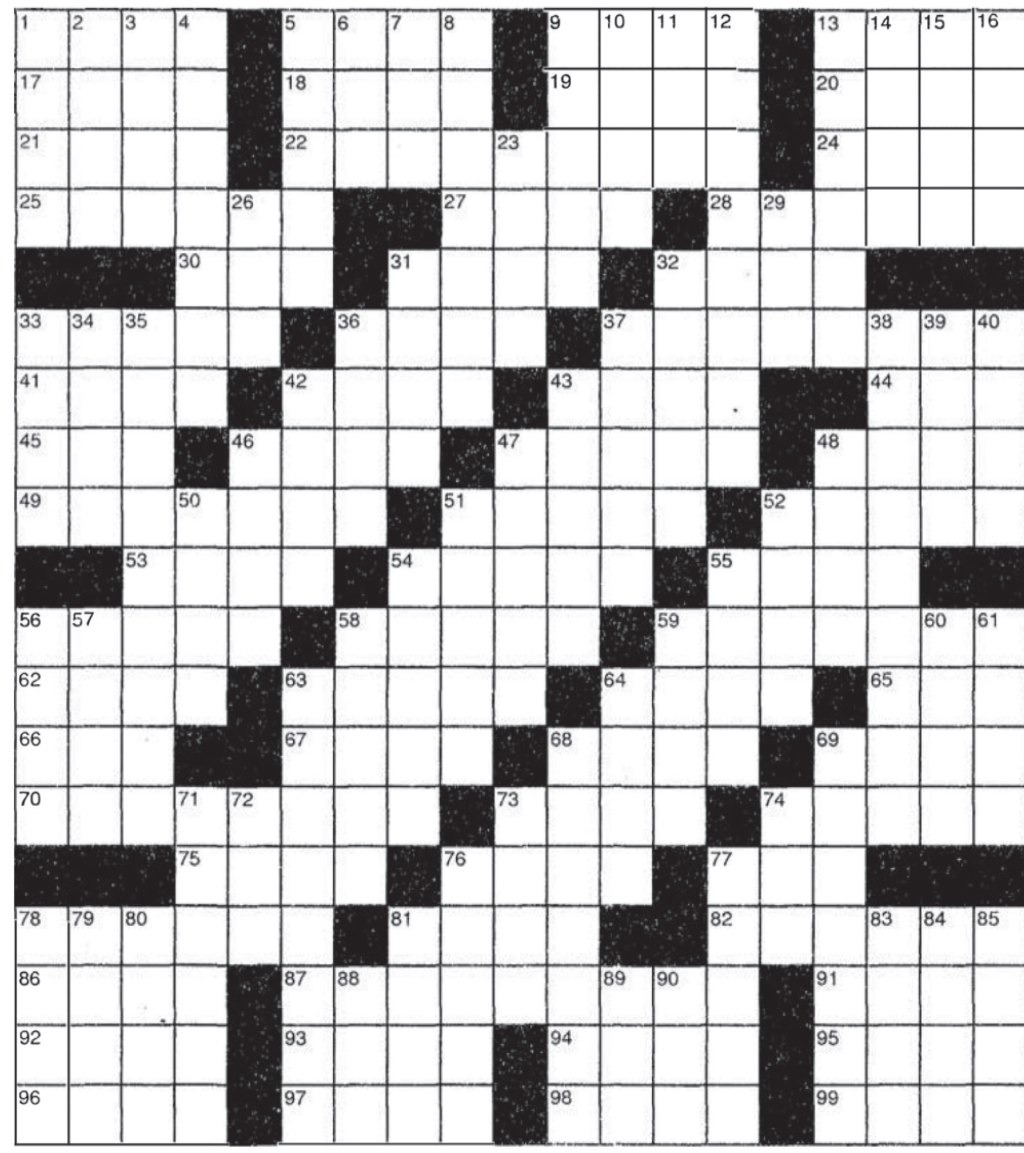
achieve. However, we need to celebrate each milestone that leads us to a brighter future, and the NAEP results are indeed worthy of celebration.

I thank teachers, school and district leaders, students, parents and communities who work tirelessly each day to achieve greatly. You are helping to move Mississippi forward, and I join you in celebrating this national recognition of your work.

Dr. Carey Wright, Mississippi state superintendent of education. Wright has been state superintendent since 2013.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
1 Hence
5 "On the ___ to El Dorado" (Disney film)
9 Enfold
13 Smelter's debris
17 Thin tuft
18 "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" author
19 Pink table wine
20 Upscale field hockey
21 22+, in blackjack
22 2011 remake of an '80s musical hit
24 Capital of Italia
25 Pearl White work
27 "___ Nothing Like the Real Thing"
28 Original
30 Compass pt.
31 Confess, slangily
32 Tie up the phone lines
33 Not close-fitting
36 "The Incredible ___"
37 Sit-ins, e.g.
41 Spanish rivers
42 Treasurers' collections
43 Novelist Bellow
44 Foldaway furniture
45 Marital vow
46 Cancer and Leo's month
47 Less desirable
48 Walt Kelly's possum
49 Crisp, lustrous fabric
51 Realty sign
52 Hang low
53 Drama
54 Club fee
55 Crustacean
56 Screenwriter Sorkin
58 Watergate prosecutor Archibald et al.
59 Poet Omar
62 Emulate Topsy?
63 "State Fair" star of 1962
64 Catch
65 Protein synthesizer
66 Latin pronoun
67 Shiraz's land
68 Like Rutgers College, since 1970
- 1970
69 What some crafts people throw
70 Sport for a weekend jock
73 Wet blanket
74 Lip lubricant
75 Hawaiian plantation town
76 Desire
77 Type of patch
78 Danny of "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"
81 Convention platform
82 Specially priced
86 Baker's need
87 Model's asset
91 Kind of door
92 Former Rocket Yao
93 Push
94 Author Jorge ___ Borges
95 Freud's article
96 Yale students
97 Barely squeezed by
- 98 Major ending
99 "___ against the dying of the light" (Dylan Thomas)
- DOWN**
1 The terrible ___
2 Busy place
3 Computer hacker
4 Leaps
5 AK-47, e.g.
6 Lennon's Dakota roommate
7 In the past
8 Reporter's concerns
9 Ill-treat
10 Take ___ (become established)
11 Nincompoop
12 Door security feature
13 Coke alternative
14 Weaving machine
15 "Summer and Smoke" heroine
16 Beckham's target
23 Chain section
26 No matter which
29 Turn informer
31 Chop ___
32 Last piece of the piece of pie
33 Londoner, for short
34 Elton John-Tim Rice musical
35 Surefire
36 Hip-swinging dance
37 KP tool
38 Creation of Iwao Takamoto
39 Benin's neighbor
40 Halt
42 Import tax
43 "Diamonds on the ___ of Her Shoes"
46 Actress Stapleton
47 Interlaced
48 Polite fop's word
50 Continuity
51 Blowfish hazard
52 Bummer
54 Sea skeleton
55 Sudan's western neighbor
56 Generations
57 Southern constellation
58 Don Corleone's son-in-law
59 Gardener's sore spot
60 Tiny toilers
61 Large quantity
63 Conversation
64 Winnow
68 Give comfort
69 Building mixture
71 Possessions
72 Brace and ___
73 Security
74 Milit. bigwig
76 Fished in boots
77 Old West group
78 Rotunda topper
79 Devilish
80 "___, vidi, vici"
81 Venetian jurist
83 Domingo offering
84 Director Fritz
85 Fencing piece
88 Whence came Mindy's beau
89 Order to a muddy dog
90 Young fox



PUBLIC HEARING SECOND NOTICE

THE CITY OF LEXINGTON WILL HOLD A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE LEXINGTON CITY HALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY'S CDBG (1135-18-233-PF-01) PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECT INVOLVING SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS EDUCATE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING POLICIES AND LAWS. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM THE PROJECT AND THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAIR HOUSING.

PUBLIC HEARING SECOND NOTICE

THE TOWN OF PICKENS WILL HOLD A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019 AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE PICKENS TOWN HALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON THE STATUS OF THE TOWN'S CDBG (1135-18-298-PF-01) PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECT INVOLVING SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS EDUCATE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING POLICIES AND LAWS. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM THE PROJECT AND THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAIR HOUSING.