Quality Counts: Mississippi 2nd most improved state in education

Mississippi **Department** of Education

For the third consecutive year, Mississippi earned national recognition for its progress in education, climbing to be among the top five states or jurisdictions with the greatest improvement, according to the latest Quality Counts report published in Education Week. Mississippi ranked second among states with the most improved states, excluding the jurisdiction of Washington, D.C. The report examines achievement in school systems from prekindergarten through grade 12 and socioeconomic factors leading to success in adulthood.

inching closer to the national the state's success. average. The nation's overall 100 points).

Quality Counts report is reon indicators for opportunities for success, school cational Progress (NAEP). funding and achievement.

STATE	SCORE/ GRADE	CHANGE 2018-2019
Mississippi	70.5	2.1
Louisiana	69.9	2.0
Nevada	68.6 D+	1.7
South Dakota	74.2 C	1.6

Mississippi earned an levels, parental employment, overall grade of C-minus 4th grade reading, and 8th (70.5 out of 100 points), grade math contributed to

grade was a C (72.8 out of most progress in the nation can do." on the K-12 Achievement Mississippi, District of Index from 2019 to 2020. Its Columbia, South Dakota score jumped by 5.2 points and Louisiana all saw their during that time fueled by inoverall scores improve. The creases in the percentage of 4th grade students proficient leased in three phases based in math and reading on the National Assessment of Edu-

"This is outstanding na-In February, Mississippi was tional recognition for our recognized for gaining 6.2 teachers and leaders in the points in the Chance-for- state. We have challenged Success Index, improving its students to meet higher stangrade from a D+ in 2008 to a dards of learning, and they C in 2020. The report stated are succeeding," said Dr. key advances in family in- Carey Wright, state superin-

come, parental education tendent of education. "This is validation that over time, we can change the trajectory of public education in Mississippi and raise expecta-Mississippi also made the tions for what our students

Mississippi 2019, achieved the No. 1 spot in the nation for gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), known as the Nation's Report Card. NAEP measures student proficiency in 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics, and Mississippi was the only state in the nation to show significant increases in three of the four NAEP subjects. Washington, D.C., was the only jurisdiction to show gains in three of four subjects.

Governor Reeves lauds enrollment milestone in workforce training itiative to aid workers and employers

Press Release

10, Governor Tate Reeves announced that a milestone of over 2,000 Mississippians have enrolled in the ReSkill Mississippi initiative (ReSkillMS) within the first 30 days of the program.

ReSkillMS is designed to help ease the economic burden and uncertainty the COVID-19 pandemic has created for our state's workers by providing training at community colleges or onthe-job training.

As of Friday, September 5, a total of 2,071 Mississippians were enrolled and participating in short-term training or on-the-job training made possible through ReSkillMS, and 71 employers were expanding as a result of the program.

"ReSkill Mississippi is already helping thousands of Mississippians. We have expanded training capacity in our community college system, and I encourage any Mississippian wanting a better career to enroll," said Governor Tate Reeves. "I also encourage more companies to sign up and receive cost assistance for new employees receiving on-the-job training. We must continue to fight this pandemic on the economic front just as aggressively as we are fighting it on the healthcare front."

ReSkillMS, which was an-

nounced on August 5, was sippi under the CARES Act On Thursday, September created as a direct result of to support our state's workthe Governor's Commission ers and employers. Working on Economic Recovery's to maximize those funds, the recommendation that signifi- Governor and a coalition of cant dollars from the CARES the state's workforce leaders demic. The State Workforce and into our state's future. Investment Board (SWIB). collaborated to develop the unemployment benefits from program. ReSkillMS allows MDES, as well as Mississip-Mississippians out-of-work pi employers seeking to hire or those working reduced Mississippians immediately hours to "re-skill" in order to and train them on the job. help prepare them for and fill high-demand, higher paying and train individuals in the jobs across our state.

> skilled jobs available than the individual's wages durpeople trained to fill them, ing the training period for but this program can help jobs paying over \$15 per thousands of Mississippians hour and for up to 50% for retrain for the skills needed wages under \$15 per hour. for higher paying jobs," said SWIB Chairman Patrick Sul- ers interested in the prolivan. "I believe this program gram should go online to will play an important role ReSkillMS.com to complete in sustaining a vibrant and the appropriate survey. An growing Mississippi econo- official from Mississippi's my, and it is the type of ef- workforce offices nearby fort that Mississippi should will reach out to the individlook to continue long after ual to guide them through the the CARES Act and the CO- application process. If indi-VID-19 pandemic are gone." viduals have not heard from

> Act recovery funds be used created ReSkillMS, an innofor workforce training to help vative new program to train lift the economic burden on individuals for good-paying our workforce from the pan- jobs most needed right now The direct beneficiaries of the Mississippi Department ReSkillMS are Mississippiof Employment Security ans furloughed, laid off, or (MDES), and Mississippi's otherwise having economic four local workforce areas damages and who received

Employers willing to hire workplace are eligible to be "We have long had more reimbursed for up to 75% of

Individuals and employ-The Mississippi Legisla- anyone within seven days of ture appropriated \$55 million submitting an application, of the \$1.25 billion in federal they can email ReSkillMS@ relief funds sent to Missis- mdes.ms.gov to follow up.







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