

Mississippi Governor's Education Human Capital Task Force

Timeline of Events

June 2, 2021

Winter 2020

Task Force Established

Governor Reeves and the Southern Regional Education Board worked to [establish a roundtable of diverse education leaders and practitioners](#) in Mississippi to find innovative solutions to the state's teacher shortage crisis. The Governor's Task Force brought together the work of several previous task forces and built on their efforts.

February 13, 2020

First Task Force Meeting — Jackson, MS

Governor Reeves, with the help of SREB, hosted the initial meeting of the task force. The members fully defined their charge and priorities and began to collect and analyze evidence of current efforts to improve the teacher pipeline in Mississippi.

April 2020

Task Force meeting #2

Due to the pandemic, the task force began meeting virtually. SREB presented research on Mississippi policies and practices related to teacher preparation, pathways, recruitment and retention, as well as best practices from around the region and nation — strategies that have increased the quantity, quality and diversity of teachers.

May 2020

Task Force meeting #3

The task force formed three initial sub-groups to work simultaneously on pressing issues for the state:

- Immediate supports needed for teachers during COVID-19
- Strengthening existing state programs to recruit and retain teachers
- Upgrading licensure and compensation

June 2020

Task Force meeting #4 and #5

The three subgroups continued to research, brainstorm and debate strategies and solutions.

July 2020

Task Force meeting #6

The task force worked to produce an interim recommendation report to Governor Reeves with immediate action steps to help recruit and retain quality teachers and better prepare them for the changes in education due to the pandemic.

August 2020

Task Force meeting #7

The first interim report was published by the task force and can be accessed here: <https://www.sreb.org/mississippi-education-human-capital-roundtable>

**September 2020
- February 2021**

Task Force meetings #8-13

Members continued to research, brainstorm and debate strategies to better market the teaching profession, upgrade teacher licensure and compensation, and create teacher leadership opportunities statewide.

March 2021

Task Force meetings #14-15 and Educator Focus Groups

The task force requested SREB and TeachPlus Mississippi to conduct educator focus groups with K-12 and higher education practitioners to learn more about the barriers preventing great teachers from entering or remaining in the profession. As the focus group research commenced, the task force began researching teacher preparation successes and challenges.

April 2021

Task Force meetings #16-17

SREB presented the focus group research to the task force. The members continued to research and brainstorm improvements for teacher preparation.

May - July 2021

Task Force meetings #18-22

The task force worked to refine and consolidate their recommended action items regarding redesigning teacher pathways, licensure, supports and compensation; improving teacher preparation policies and curricula; increasing access to P-20 longitudinal data; and marketing the teaching profession more effectively. The task force aims to present its final recommendation report to Governor Reeves in August 2021.

The Mississippi Governor's Education Human Capital Task Force

Membership List

The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor

Dr. Richard Blackburn, former Dean of Education, Mississippi State University

Dr. Ben Burnett, Dean of Education, William Cary University

Dr. Debra Burson, Bureau Director, Educator Preparation, Mississippi Department of Education

Kelly Butler, Chief Executive Officer, Barksdale Reading Institute

Glen East, Superintendent of Education, Gulfport School District

Dr. Karen Elam, Member, Mississippi State Board of Education

LaJeremy Hughes, Elementary Teacher, Della Davidson Elementary, Oxford School District

Dr. Teresa Jayroe, Dean of Education, Mississippi State University

Audra Love Kimble, Mississippi Community College Foundation

Heather Morrison, Director, P-20 Partnerships, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Dr. Cory Murphy, Executive Director, Teaching and Leading, Mississippi Department of Education

Dr. Felecia Nave, President, Alcorn State University

Dr. David Rock, Dean, School of Education, University of Mississippi

Robin Stewart, Director, Office of Job Connections, Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Sara Stygles, Lead Teacher, Oak Grove Middle School, Lamar County School District

Lillie Bryant Sweazy, Secondary Teacher, Natchez High School, Natchez-Adams School District

Jackie Turner, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education

SREB Support Staff (in alphabetical order):

Megan Boren, Stevie Lawrence, Stephen Pruitt and Jessica Snellings