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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td><strong>Task Force meeting #6</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td>August 2020</td>
<td><strong>Task Force meeting #7</strong>&lt;br&gt;The first interim report was published by the task force and can be accessed here: <a href="https://www.sreb.org/mississippi-education-human-capital-roundtable">https://www.sreb.org/mississippi-education-human-capital-roundtable</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2020 - February 2021</td>
<td><strong>Task Force meetings #8-13</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td>March 2021</td>
<td><strong>Task Force meetings #14-15 and Educator Focus Groups</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td>April 2021</td>
<td><strong>Task Force meetings #16-17</strong>&lt;br&gt;SREB presented the focus group research to the task force. The members continued to research and brainstorm improvements for teacher preparation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May - July 2021</td>
<td><strong>Task Force meetings #18-22</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Mississippi Governor’s Education Human Capital Task Force

Membership List

The Honorable Tate Reeves, Governor
Dr. Richard Blackbourn, 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