



Simpson County School District
2026-2027



Pre-Kindergarten Parent Handbook



APPROVED

JUL 09 2026

**SIMPSON COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD**

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Welcome to Simpson County School District

MISSION

Our mission is to be the district where all students excel, feel valued, and learn in a safe, inclusive environment supported by strong community and staff collaboration.

VISION

Our vision is to ensure every student achieves academic proficiency, foster a positive school climate, strengthen community and staff partnerships, enhance safety, and maintain fiscal responsibility to support student success.

MOTTO

Don't Just Be.....Be The Best

DIRECTORY
SIMPSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
601-847-8000

Dr. Robert Sanders, Superintendent, rsanders@simpsonk12.org
Deberah Collins, Curriculum Director, dcollins@simpson.k12.ms.us
Lana Stephens, Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator, lstephens@simpson.k12.ms.us
Contact for Lana Stephens: 601-849-3601 and 601-847-2621

Magee Elementary School
601-849-3601

Dr. Melanie Wells, Principal, mwells@simpson.k12.ms.us
Megan Blair, Assistant Principal, awiliams@simpson.k12.m.us
Ruth Allen, Counselor, rallen@simpson.k12.ms.us
Tunga Otis, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, totis@simpson.k12.m.us
Shelley Ford, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, sford@simpson.k12.ms.us
Kimberly Johnson, Pre-Kindergarten Assistant, kjohnson@simpson.k12.m.us
Valerie Madison, Pre-Kindergarten Assistant, vmadison@simpson.k12.ms.us

Mendenhall Elementary School
601-847-2621

Tommy Brumfield, Principal, tbrumfield@simpson.k12.ms.us
Sharonda Jones, Assistant Principal, sjones@simpson.k12.ms.us
Kimberly VanGordon, Counselor, kvangordon@simpson.k12.ms.us
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Shrunda Blackwell, Pre-Kindergarten Assistant, sblackwell@simpson.k12.ms.us
Leslie Glenn, Pre-Kindergarten Assistant, lglen@simpson.k12.ms.us

Simpson Central School
601-847-2621

Edward Peckingpaugh, Principal, epeckingpaugh@simpson.k12.ms.us
Dr. Henerietta Bowen, Assistant Principal, hbowen@simpson.k12.ms.us
Amber Clay, Counselor, claya@simpson.k12.ms.us
Whitney Bowen, Preschool Teacher, wbowen@simpson.k12.ms.us
Kerry Ward, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, kward@simpson.k12.m.us





Our Goals

Simpson County School District and Mississippi Department of Education Pre-Kindergarten Goals Include:

- Improve self-concept
- Increase intellectual growth
- Enlarge understanding of the world, people, experiences, ideas
- Increase competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking
- Increase competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration
- Increase skills involved in physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills
- Increase competence in dealing with emotions, feeling, and social situations
- Increase self-direction and independence
- Develop cooperative, trusting relationships
- Develop their natural curiosity and creative potential
- Develop a love of learning

Enrollment

Required Documentation:
A birth certificate and immunization record (Form 121) are required for all pre-kindergarten children and shall be presented to the proper school authority. If the pre-kindergarten (three- and/or four-year old) program is located in a public school setting, the information in Section 1 of the Mississippi Cumulative Folders and Permanent Records document must be followed (Mississippi Code Ann. §37-15-1).

Child must be completely potty-trained

Curriculum

Pre-kindergarten programs use a research- and evidence-based comprehensive curriculum that is designed to prepare children to be ready for kindergarten, with emphasis in early literacy, and is aligned with the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Three-Year-Old Children and the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children. Mississippi Code Annotated § 27-103-159 defines “evidence-based program” as “a program or practice that has had multiple site random controlled trials across heterogeneous populations demonstrating that the program is effective for the population.” Additionally, the curriculum contains thematic units of activities and ideas designed to provide children the opportunities and experiences needed to master the performance standards in the Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children and the Mississippi Early Learning Standards. Visit www.mdek12.org/EC for a current listing of approved curricula. Lesson planning documents should reflect Early Learning Standards that are targeted through each lesson and learning center activities that are used throughout the thematic unit.

The Mississippi Early Learning Standards for Classrooms Serving Four-Year-Old Children is organized according to the following areas:

English Language Arts (ELA)
Mathematics
Approaches to Learning
Social and Emotional Development
Science
Physical Development
Social Studies
Creative Expression

The English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards were developed to align with evidence-based best practices. The Approaches to Learning, Social and Emotional Development, Science, Physical Development, Social Studies and Creative Expression Standards were developed based on National Standards for Early Childhood Education.

Curriculum: MS Beginnings and Building Blocks

Family Engagement

THREE MANDATORY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS CHILD'S PROGRESS

- FIRST PARENT CONFERENCE: (FALL) Information gathering session from the parent.
- SECOND PARENT CONFERENCE (WINTER): Consist of a progress update to the parent. If documented attempts to meet with parents or other responsible persons fail, telephone conferences can be substituted.
- THIRD PARENT CONFERENCE (SPRING): Consist of a progress update to the parent
- Parents/Legal Guardians may request a meeting with the teacher, preschool coordinator, or administration at any time throughout the school year.
- A Parent Calendar will be provided for all families.

Discipline

All Pre-Kindergarten students are expected to follow the rules, regulations, and behavioral expectations outlined in the Simpson County School District Student Handbook. Failure to comply with district policies and procedures may result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the Pre-Kindergarten program. The Simpson County School District Student Handbook is available on the Simpson County School District website for parent and guardian review.

Assessment and Screeners

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA)

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) is a state-required assessment administered in the fall, winter, and spring to measure student growth and readiness skills throughout the school year.

Our goal is for each student to achieve a score at or above the 60th percentile by the spring assessment. Your child's teacher will review assessment results with you privately through either a parent conference or a phone meeting.

Brigance

Students will also participate in the Brigance Assessment, a screening tool used to evaluate developmental and academic readiness skills. Results from the Brigance Assessment will be shared and discussed privately by your child's teacher during a parent conference or phone meeting.

Vision and Hearing

All students will receive vision and hearing screenings at the beginning of the school year. These screenings help identify any concerns that may impact a child's learning and development.



Important Reminders



Attendance

Attendance will be recorded daily. Regular and consistent attendance is essential to student success and is expected of all Pre-Kindergarten students. Daily participation in the program is strongly encouraged to support each child's academic, social, and emotional development.

Transportation

Pre-Kindergarten students must be transported to and from school by a parent, legal guardian, or an authorized individual designated by the parent or guardian.

Pre-Kindergarten students are not eligible for transportation by school bus. Failure to comply with this transportation requirement may result in dismissal from the Simpson County School District Pre-Kindergarten Program.





School Hours Drop-Off/Pick-Up Schedule

Magee Elementary School

Drop Off 7:20 – 7:45

Pick Up. 2:45–3:00

Mendenhall Elementary School

Drop Off 7:20 – 7:50

Pick Up. 2:45–3:00

Simpson Central School

Drop Off 7:20 – 7:50

Pick Up. 2:45–3:00