

Tishomingo County School District

Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Plan (2026-2027)



TISHOMINGO COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Together We Can Succeed

District: Tishomingo County School District

Address: 1620 Paul Edmonson Drive, Iuka, MS 38852

Website: www.tcsk12.com

Board Approval Date: _____

Tishomingo County School District

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Target Board Submission Date: October 15, 2026

Statutory Mandate Deadline: November 1, 2026 (Board-Approved & Posted on District Website)

1. Executive Summary Leadership Team & Strategic Goals

Chronic absenteeism significantly impacts student achievement, graduation rates, and social-emotional development across our district. In accordance with Mississippi compulsory attendance laws (enforcing the 66% instructional day requirement under SB 2103) and local school board policy, this Plan of Action establishes structured monitoring, early intervention protocols, family engagement strategies, and clear accountability measures to reduce overall chronic absenteeism district-wide.

Leadership and Development Team

The implementation, monitoring, and continuous evaluation of the **Tishomingo County School District Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Plan** are overseen by the District Leadership and Development Team. This cross-functional team ensures policy enforcement, data fidelity, and campus-level support across all school sites.

District Leadership Team

Name / Role	Title	Primary Responsibility	Contact Information
Superintendent of Education	Mrs. Christie Holly	District policy oversight, Board of Education reporting, and resource allocation.	<i>cholly@tcsk12.com</i>

Curriculum/Special Services Director	Mr. Cliff Nunley	Alignment of attendance interventions with academic support systems and MTSS framework. Oversight of specialized attendance accommodations, IEP alignment and student resources.	<i>cnunley@tcsk12.com</i>
District Attendance Director/Youth Court Liaison	Mr. Andy Deaton	Monitoring SchoolStatus documentation compliance, Tier 3 intervention plans, and legal/court referrals.	<i>adeaton@tcsk12.com</i>
Director of Federal Programs and Testing	Mrs. Katie Crane	Allocates grant funds toward targeted attendance interventions for at-risk student populations and monitors testing participation rates to ensure absent students complete state and benchmark exams.	<i>kcrane@tcsk12.com</i>

MSIS Director	Mrs. Nelda Degraw	Daily attendance data integration, SchoolStatus system administration, and public website posting.	<i>ndegraw@tcsk12.com</i>
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Campus Leadership & Attendance Leads

Each campus maintains a dedicated attendance team responsible for logging daily contacts, flagging unexcused absence thresholds, and drafting Tier 3 Attendance Intervention Plans:

- **Belmont High School / Elementary:** Principal: Mr. Matt Caldwell
- **Burnsville Elementary School:** Principal: Mr. Jonathan Jones
- **Iuka Elementary School (IES):** Principal: Mr. Brenton Nunley
- **Iuka Middle School (IMS):** Principal: Mrs. Chrystal Smith
- **Tishomingo County High School (TCHS):** Principal: Mr. Jeff Palmer
- **Tishomingo Elementary School:** Principal: Mr. Casey James
- **Tishomingo County Career and Technical Center:** Director: Mr. John Grady Taylor

Primary Strategic Goals

- **Overall District Reduction:** Reduce the overall district chronic absenteeism rate from 29.30% (2025–2026) to below 20.00% over two academic cycles.
- **Targeted Campus Support:** Provide intensive site-level intervention and monitoring for high-need campuses, specifically Tishomingo County High School (TCHS at 45.30%) and Iuka Elementary School (IES at 31.20%).
- **Data & Protocol Compliance:** Ensure 100% compliance with logging attendance contacts in SchoolStatus and executing formal individual Attendance Intervention Plans for all students with 8 or more unexcused absences.
- **66% Day Rule Enforcement:** Operationalize Mississippi's 66% daily attendance requirement across all campuses, ensuring transparent communication regarding partial-day thresholds and athletic/extracurricular eligibility.

2. 4-Year Chronic Absenteeism Data Analysis

School / Campus	2022 –2023	2023 –2024	2024 –2025	2025–2026 (Current)	Trend & Priority Level
Belmont School	23.30%	22.10%	31.20%	26.30%	Moderate Improvement / Priority Level 2
Burnsville Elementary	27.00%	27.60%	25.20%	21.10%	Positive Downward Trend / Priority Level 3
Iuka Elementary School (IES)	31.20%	24.40%	29.00%	31.20%	Elevated / Priority Level 1
Iuka Middle School (IMS)	22.90%	16.70%	23.80%	23.50%	Stable / Priority Level 2
Tishomingo County High School (TCHS)	26.70%	30.90%	36.20%	45.30%	Critical Surge / Highest Priority Level 1
Tishomingo School	29.40%	17.80%	25.60%	26.00%	Stable / Priority Level 2
District Total	25.90%	23.90%	29.50%	29.30%	District-Wide Focus Area

3. Statutory Framework: Mississippi 66% Instructional Day Standard

Under Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance legislation (SB 2103), attendance calculations and athletic/extracurricular eligibility are governed by strict daily time thresholds:

- **The 66% Daily Threshold:** A student must physically attend at least **66% of their individual instructional day** to be marked present. Missing more than 34% (roughly one-third) of the instructional day results in an official full-day absence.
- **Extracurricular Eligibility:** Missing more than 34% of the school day directly invalidates a student's eligibility to participate in athletic practices, games, performances, or club activities on that day, unless the absence is lawful or administratively excused. Absences will be validated on the day of the absence by administration for participation purposes. Absences can be excused within the allotted 2-day validation period for school attendance. However, for extracurricular participation, determinations will be made on the day of the absence.
- **School-Sponsored Activity Coding:** Official school events (e.g., sanctioned athletic contests, early departures for competitions, academic field trips) are coded separately and do not count as absences against the 66% threshold.
- **Excused Absence Semester Caps:** Board policy permits up to 5 excused absences per semester (3 parent notes max, plus 2 documented lawful excuses). Additional absences require administrative approval.

4. Multi-Tiered System of Attendance Supports (MTSS-A)

The district will use the MTSS-A for interventions for student absences. The following are examples of possible interventions the district/school may implement:

Tier 1: Universal Prevention Examples (0–4 Unexcused Absences)

- **Positive School Culture & Recognition:** Implement monthly assemblies, "Surprise Attendance Days," and public shout-outs to celebrate excellent and improved attendance.
- **Automated Multichannel Communications:** Daily automated phone calls and SchoolStatus SMS notifications sent to parents/guardians upon any unexcused absence.
- **Public Awareness Campaign:** Launch the "*Arrive Late > Stay Home*" campaign to educate families that arriving late still allows students to cross the 66% mark and remain eligible for school activities.
- **Extracurricular & Team Benchmarks:** Establish weekly attendance benchmarks for athletic teams, band, and student clubs (e.g., 96%+ group attendance earns team privileges or pre-game spotlights).

Tier 2: Targeted Early Intervention Examples (5–7 Unexcused Absences)

- **Direct Logging & Outreach:** Designated attendance staff conduct direct phone calls and message parents via SchoolStatus, logging all touchpoints into the system.

- **Official Attendance Warning Letters:** Issue formal written notices detailing unexcused absence totals, state legal thresholds, and semester excused-absence caps.
- **Custom 66% Micro-Schedules:** Design individualized daily arrival and academic recovery schedules anchored around core instructional periods to ensure chronic absentees hit the minimum 66% threshold each day.
- **10:00 AM Coach Roster Alerts:** Automated SIS alerts notify head coaches and extracurricular sponsors by 10:00 AM if an active student-athlete/participant has not checked in, allowing immediate mentor outreach before the 66% cutoff is missed.

Tier 3: Intensive Intervention Plans Examples (8+ Unexcused Absences)

- **Mandatory Individual Attendance Plan:** Require school leadership and attendance staff to draft and execute a formal, written Attendance Plan for every student reaching 8 unexcused absences.
- **Parent/Student Success Conferences:** Hold targeted conferences with school counselors, attendance officers, and coaches/advisors to identify root barriers (transportation, health, morning fatigue) and create an Attendance Success Plan.
- **Support Services Integration:** Connect students and families with school social workers, community health partners, and local youth service organizations.
- **Administrative Pre-Truancy Hearings & Court Referral:** Conduct formal district-level hearings and file official truancy petitions with the MDE Compulsory School Attendance Officer when non-compliance persists.

5. Operational Protocols & Responsibilities

- 1. School-Level Attendance Personnel:**
 - Log all parental contacts, excuses, and interventions immediately in SchoolStatus or school-level documentation.
 - Perform daily attendance audits to identify students reaching 5 and 8 unexcused absences.
 - Develop, document, and monitor formal Attendance Intervention Plans for all students with 8+ unexcused absences.
- 2. Coaches, Directors & Club Advisors:**
 - Review weekly team/club attendance rosters and conduct mentor check-ins with at-risk participants.
 - Enforce the 66% instructional day requirement for practice and game-day participation.
 - Establish morning-after check-in protocols following late-night away games or performances to prevent morning tardiness.
- 3. Building Principals & Administrators:**
 - Review weekly campus attendance reports and ensure 100% compliance with SchoolStatus/school-level documentation logging.
 - Conduct bi-weekly reviews of Tier 2 and Tier 3 attendance plans with school personnel.
 - Serve as local designees for reviewing administrative attendance excuses beyond semester caps.

4. District Administration:

- Perform bi-weekly district-wide audits of attendance contact logs and Tier 3 intervention plans.
- Allocate targeted site-specific resources and intervention support to priority campuses (TCHS and IES).
- Oversee statutory reporting and ensure full compliance with MDE attendance guidelines.

6. Implementation Timeline & Board Approval Roadmap

Date / Deadline	Action Item	Responsible Parties
1st 9 Weeks (Current)	Complete 1st 9 weeks attendance log updates, log contacts in SchoolStatus/ school level documentation, and establish Tier 3 plans for all students with 8+ absences.	School Attendance Teams / Principals
Prior to Fall Break Return	Distribute Draft Plan of Action to administrative staff and leadership teams for review.	District Central Office
Monday Post-Fall Break	District-Wide Leadership Zoom Meeting with principals and directors to finalize the Plan of Action.	Superintendent / Central Office & Principals
Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026	Submit final Plan of Action to the Board of Education Agenda for formal review and approval.	Superintendent / School Board
Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026	Post the official Board-approved plan on the district website (www.tcsk12.com) to satisfy MDE statutory mandate.	

7. Evaluation Metrics & Continuous Improvement Framework

- **Key Performance Benchmarks (2026–2027):**
 - **District-Wide Targets:** Decrease overall chronic absenteeism rates from **29.30%** to under **20.00%**.
 - **High School Focus (TCHS):** Lower chronic absenteeism rates from **45.30%** to below **30.00%**.
 - **Elementary Focus (IES):** Reduce non-attendance rates from **31.20%** to under **22.00%**.
- **Monitoring Schedule:**
 - **Bi-Weekly Audits:** Site-level MTSS and attendance teams conduct audits of Tier 2 and Tier 3 documentation and SchoolStatus communication logs.
 - **Monthly Reviews:** Central Office administration assesses campus trends across all district school sites.
 - **Annual Assessments:** Comprehensive progress evaluations presented to the Board of Education measuring success against strategic goals.

8. Board Submission & Compliance Posting

- **Board Review Date:** Presented to the Board of Education for formal action on **October 15, 2026**.
- **Web Compliance Publishing:** Following official board approval, this plan will be published on the district portal by **November 1, 2026**, fulfilling statutory posting mandates.