

Resolution for Adopting a Postsecondary Attainment Goal in Mississippi

Year 2030 and 2035 Goal for Impacting Mississippi's Workforce through Educational Attainment

Sponsor: Mississippi's Education Achievement Council

History of the EAC: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-163-1:

The Education Achievement Council (EAC) was established in 2010 for the purpose of sustaining attention to the state's goal of increasing the educational attainment and skill levels of the state's working-age population to the national average by 2025 by the following:

The Education Achievement Council shall:

- a) establish the education achievement goals for the state; and
- b) develop and prescribe appropriate planning processes.

Members: Dr. Jay Allen, President, Itawamba Community College (EAC Chair); The Honorable Richard Bennett, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Education Committee; Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President, Mississippi Valley State University; Mr. Chris Burgio, Campus Director, Concorde Career College; Dr. Jason Dean, Chair, Mississippi Board of Education; The Honorable Dennis DeBar, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Education Committee; Mr. Tom Duff, Trustee, Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning; Dr. E. Harold Fisher, Executive Director, Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; Dr. Jim Haffey, President, Holmes Community College; Mr. Shane Hooper, Trustee, Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning; The Honorable Briggs Hopson, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Appropriations Committee; The Honorable Mac Huddleston, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee; Dr. Tyrone Jackson, President, Mississippi Delta Community College; Mr. William LaForge, President, Delta State University; Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board; Mr. Adam Moore, Mississippi Department of Mental Health; Dr. Felecia Nave, President, Alcorn State University; The Honorable Rita Parks, Chairman, Mississippi Senate Universities and Colleges Committee; Mr. John Pigott, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board; Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr., Commissioner of Higher Education, Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning; The Honorable John Read, Chairman, Mississippi House of Representatives Appropriations Committee; Ms. Holly Spivey, Office of Governor Tate Reeves; Ms. Cheryl Thurmond, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board; Mr. Scott Waller, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Economic Council; and Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education

Title: Ascent to 55%

Purpose: Our goal is to strengthen the quality and quantity of Mississippi's workforce by increasing levels of postsecondary educational attainment among working-age adults. Doing this will both improve the lives of individual Mississippians and contribute to Mississippi's current and future economic health.

Outcome: By 2030, Mississippi will increase the postsecondary attainment of its workforce to 55%. By 2035, Mississippi will increase the postsecondary attainment of its workforce to 60%

Resolution

WHEREAS: The Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce predicts that, by 2027, 70% of all jobs will require a postsecondary degree or credential; and

WHEREAS: The Southern Regional Education Board *Challenge to Lead* established a goal for states to reach 60% of working-age adults with a postsecondary credential: an associate or bachelor's degree, or a career certificate.; and

WHEREAS: The College Board reports that citizens with postsecondary education lead healthier lifestyles, earn more, pay more in taxes, and are more likely to be employed than those with only a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS: Mississippi's current rate of postsecondary attainment, (a degree, credential or industry certification earned beyond high school) for adults age 25 to 64 is 45.2%, which is lower than the national average of 51.3%; and

WHEREAS: The Education Achievement Council seeks to close achievement gaps and to focus on working-age adults (ages 25 to 64) and on populations traditionally underrepresented in higher education as a result of inequities including but not limited to people of color, adult students, and the economically disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS: Mississippi's postsecondary outcomes are particularly low for African Americans, who earn an associate degree or above at a rate of 26.4%, compared to their White counterparts, who earn an associate degree or above at a rate of 36.4%; and

WHEREAS: The Education Achievement Council is committed to equitable postsecondary outcomes and seeks to close educational equity gaps, where race is no longer a predictor of educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS: The Mississippi Department of Employment Security projects an overall increase in employment growth of 5.2% by 2026, increasing the number of jobs in all industries from 1,153,930 to 1,214,180—for an overall increase of 60,250 jobs; and

WHEREAS: The Education Achievement Council, the stakeholders committed to improving the overall postsecondary attainment rates to meet Mississippi's future workforce needs, is a diverse set of all stakeholder agencies and institutions representing elementary and secondary education, higher education, employers, and industry; and

WHEREAS: Members of the Education Achievement Council are focused on related work within their own organizations and are seeking an increased, coordinated, and unified effort through participation by state leaders; and

WHEREAS: The Education Achievement Council and its workgroups will develop, support, and assess initiatives that strengthen postsecondary policies, practices and programs with a goal to increase the percentage of Mississippi adults who complete a credential of value beyond high school, particularly focused on credentials relevant to Mississippi's current and future economy; and

WHEREAS: The Education Achievement Council taskforce recommends an attainment goal for Mississippi highlighting the imperative to increase the percentage of working-age adults holding a high-value certificate, college degree, or industry-recognized credential to 55% by 2030 and to 60% by 2035 particularly focused on meeting Mississippi's future workforce needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 22nd day of October in the year 2020, the members of the Mississippi Education Achievement Council endorse the postsecondary attainment goal of 55% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 and call on all leaders in state and local government, business, philanthropy, education, and non-profit organizations to support the effort to expand Mississippi's economy by adopting this goal into their individual strategic plans.