



George County School District Drop-Out Prevention Plan

2026-2027 School Year

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Graduation Rate

George County School District's graduation rate for the 2025-2026 school year is 95.5%. That is a .5% decrease from the previous school year. The most recent data collected from MDE on the Career and Technical Education Consolidated District Summary Report shows that the 4-year graduation rate for CTE students is 100%. The post program placement for CTE students is 95.45%. 95.45% of students were recognized by the program quality attained for the post-secondary credential. For the 2025-2026 school year, 71.9% of the graduating class completed a 2-year skills Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. 72.4% of Students with Disabilities graduated with a standard high school diploma. Attached is George County School District's 2026-2027 Drop-Out Prevention Plan.

Goal 1: Attendance

The George County School District will increase attendance rates to 94% for students.

According to the United States Department of Education article, "Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools- A hidden education crisis", students that are chronically absent are at a greater risk of falling behind in school. Chronically absent is defined as a student missing at least 15 days of school in a year. A study of public school students in one state found that an incidence of chronic absenteeism in a single year between 8th and 12th grade was associated with seven-fold increase in the likelihood of a student dropping out.

George County School District

The George County School District (GCSD) has developed an initiative to improve attendance for all students in grades Pre-K through 12th.

School Year	Average Student Attendance
2025-2026	91.32%
2024-2025	91.59%
2023-2024	91.04%
2022-2023	91.09%
2021-2022	91.67%
2020-2021	93.21%

George County Elementary Schools

- George County School District believes that to lower the drop-out rate of students, increased student attendance must begin at the primary level of Pre-School and Kindergarten. Each elementary school will monitor student attendance rates and report to the Superintendent of Education each semester through local school data meetings. Each elementary school will be encouraged to form an attendance incentive plan to increase attendance at their school for students and teachers. Elementary schools may also promote attendance by offering incentives.
- All teachers throughout the district will be asked to make at least five parent contacts each week through SchoolStatus to discuss attendance, behavior, and course performance. All schools in the district will utilize SchoolStatus to monitor student attendance. Administrators at each school will monitor teacher contacts with parents.

Schools call parents daily to check on absent students. Each school will also work closely with the school truancy officer to ensure that all trancies are reported and monitored

George County Middle School

The George County Middle School Drop-Out prevention contribution will consist of the following three components:

1. Implementation and the use of a functional MTSS process with remediation for academics and behaviors.
2. Implementation of a PBIS process for supporting, recognizing, and rewarding students, and
3. Increasing Carnegie Unit acquisition for all exiting students

George County High School

For the 2025-2026 school year, GCHS averaged an attendance rate of 88.71%. This is an increase of .28% from the 2024-2025 school year. GCHS's attendance goal is to increase the attendance rate to 91% for the 2026-2027 school year. Daily attendance will be monitored through SchoolStatus, and in each term the attendance rate will be discussed in data meetings by school administration. GCHS has implemented a Drop-Out Prevention program for their at-risk students. The team is made up of teachers, counselors, administrators, and parents.

In this program:

- At-risk students are identified and shared with all faculty and staff each semester
- Administrators print a weekly list of students by grade level who have missed three of the past five school days. Each administrator will take a grade level and contact parents/guardians to see why the student has been absent. Administrators will discuss the results/progress of phone calls in after school meetings and determine strategies to help improve attendance. Teachers will be updated on the progress.
- Students meet in Advisory– attendance is a topic addressed
- Administrators conduct home visits to encourage student attendance
- Administrators meet weekly to discuss and monitor the program
- Student subgroups that have increased absenteeism are targeted

Goal 2: Behavior

George County School District

George County School District has implemented the following guidelines for each school in the district:

- Five parent contacts each week through SchoolStatus – student behavior may be addressed and monitored by the school administration team
- School site visits will be conducted by district office personnel for each school – behavior plans evaluated
- Professional development available for classroom management through the New Teacher Academy and Mentor Teacher Academy
- Schools will target student subgroups that have an increase in discipline referrals

George County Elementary Schools

Each elementary school has implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) initiative to help increase positive student behavior. In many cases, in-school suspension may be an alternate to out-of-school suspension. Positive behavior strategies are implemented during this time and throughout the school year for students. Elementary students also may attend alternative school located on an elementary school campus. Students are able to meet with a mental health specialist or school counselors and focus on positive behavior strategies.

George County Middle School

George County Middle School will implement and utilize the MTSS process with remediation for behavior. They will also implement a PBIS process for supporting, recognizing, and rewarding students.

George County High School

GCHS will implement a program entitled “Rebel Yell.” In this positive behavior initiative, teachers will be encouraged to recognize students throughout each month who should be rewarded for their positive behavior. The goal of this program is to decrease the number of student referrals. A “Student of the Month” is also recognized each month for positive behavior.

Year	Average Daily Referrals
2025-2026	15.55
2024-2025	3.5
2023-2024	6.45

2022-2023

7.2

Goal 3: Course Performance

George County School District will increase proficiency and growth in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and proficiency in Science. This will be monitored and measured by teachers, school administration, and district administration after each diagnostic assessment.

George County School District – All Schools

George County School District has implemented the following initiatives to increase student proficiency and growth at each school:

- Standards based district pacing guides are followed for each grade level in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science
- Standards mastery is documented for each assessment and monitored by each school's administration and the Curriculum Department.
- District end of quarter common assessments are administered to measure student growth throughout each school in the district
- Google Curriculum folders have been created for each grade level and subject for teachers to share standard mastery lessons and to utilize teacher collaboration
- Essential vocabulary lists are created for each grade level based on each standard as it correlates to the specific pacing guide
- Superintendent conducts principal data meetings to discuss student proficiency and growth
- School site visits will be conducted with frequency based on accountability rating with classroom observations, curriculum and instruction monitored by district office personnel
- Each school will implement an intervention time to help meet specific academic needs of each student – monitored by school administration
- Teacher data meetings will be led by school administrators
- I-Ready and ELS diagnostic/benchmark testing will be administered to measure student growth and proficiency throughout the school year
- Targeted subgroups that are at risk for failure of a grade, course, or end of course test will be given individualized instruction and intervention

George County Middle School

Students at George County Middle School can earn 5.5 Carnegie units. Students can earn credits for 8th Grade Math, World Geography, Mississippi Studies, Visual Arts, Cyber Foundations I, Cyber Foundations II, and Health for the 2026-2027 school year.

George County High School

In addition to each district initiative, GCHS also develops the Drop-Out Prevention Plan to monitor student course performance:

- At-risk students are identified and shared with all faculty and staff each semester
- Administrators schedule at-risk parent meetings each semester to involve parents in strategies to keep students in school
- Teachers participate in department meetings to address student averages
- Students meet in Advisory each month –graded and subject area testing is addressed
- Administrators meet weekly to discuss and monitor the program
- The ACT is offered for seniors that have failed an end-of-course test-counselors monitor
- The ACT WorkKeys will be given to juniors and seniors that have not yet met the College and Career Readiness benchmark
- Credit Recovery- helps students get back on track toward graduation to encourage students to stay in school by recovering failed credits

Diploma Endorsements

Diploma endorsements have been emphasized at George County High School. They include Distinguished Academic, Distinguished CTE, Distinguished JROTC, Academic, CTE, and JROTC endorsements. The goal is to lead, guide, and prepare students to be college and or career ready upon graduation. Diploma endorsements better prepare students to do this as they focus on a broad spectrum of requirements such as ACT, ACT WorkKeys, specific academic, CTE or JROTC coursework, dual credit classes, credits, GPA, etc. GCHS also embeds Career and Technical Classes. Students may take one of the twelve skilled CTE programs offered at GCHS: Health Science, Teacher Academy, Automotive, Welding, Horticulture, Forestry, Construction, Law and Public Safety, Business Management, Digital Media, Culinary, and Diversified Agriculture/Animal Science. The goal of each class is to introduce as many skills as possible to prepare students for graduation and their future goals.

School Year	Students Completed a 2- year skill program
2025-2026	71.9%
2024-2025	65.9%
2023-2024	64%
2022-2023	56%
2020-2021	56%
2019-2020	53%
2018-2019	50%

GCHS values the CTE program with its ability to help increase student attendance, decrease student discipline referrals, and increase course performance.

Dropout Recovery Initiative

For students that are ages 17-21, George County High School will implement a Diploma Recovery Team to help counsel any person that would like to earn a diploma. The team will provide resources to these students such as: Mississippi Youth Challenge, Job Corps, or an adult education diploma program. Counseling, guidance, and help with applications are available to any student of any age.

Student Transition from Juvenile Detention Centers

Students transitioning from detention centers to GCHS will be offered services from the counseling department. Students may be placed in Alternative School, located on the campus of GCMS to help with the transition back to the regular classroom. Alternative school teachers will monitor attendance, behavior, and course performance. Administrators will meet with teachers, students, and parents to discuss the transition back into school. Once students have

transitioned, counselors will meet with the students weekly to evaluate and help with any student needs.

References

United States Department of Education. 2019. Chronic Absenteeism in the Nation's Schools- A hidden educational crisis." 2 and 8.

<https://www2.ed.gov/datasotry/chronicabsenteeism.html#four>



**GEORGE
COUNTY
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

**George County School District
Drop-Out Prevention Plan Team Members
2026-2027**

Superintendent: Debra Joiner

School Board President: Christopher Hilbun

Assistant Superintendent/Director of Sec. Curr: Jennifer Mathis

Director of Career and Technical Education: Jeff Mathis

Director of Special Education: David King

Director of Student Services: Sid Taylor

Principal George County High School: Jason Holland

Principal George County Middle School: Sheila Taylor

Assistant Principal GCHS: Brittany Brown

Assistant Principal GCHS: Kristin Davis

Assistant Principal GCHS: Valerie Pierce

Assistant CTE Director: Jason Woodruff

Counselor GCHS: Allyson Howard

CTE Counselor GCHS: Barbara Thompson

APPROVED

JUN 02 2026

G C SCHOOL BOARD