BEING SCHOOL READY STARTS EARLY
TUESDAY, AUG. 6, 2019
2:00 – 3:15 P.M.
Representative Sondra Erickson

Committee Assignments:
- Education Policy
- Ethics
- Education Finance Division
- Taxes

Elected: 1998

Represents: District 15A in Minnesota
John B. King Jr. is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close educational opportunity and achievement gaps. King served as U.S. secretary of education in the Obama administration. King began his career as a high school social studies teacher and middle school principal.

Laurie Smith serves as senior policy advisor to Governor Phil Bryant (R-Miss.). She is the executive director of the State Workforce Investment Board as well as the State Early Childhood Advisory Council. Under Bryant’s leadership, Smith has led numerous legislative efforts to help improve public education in Mississippi.

Access full bios on the online agenda or through the app.
Being School Ready Starts Early

Laurie Smith, Ph.D.
Senior Policy Advisor
Education and Workforce
Office of Governor Phil Bryant
Human brain development starts at birth not when children enter school.

Early childhood education means early development, not early school.
Coordination of Systems

Birth – 5

K – 12

College / Workforce
Workforce Needs

Early Childhood Education

Figure 4. Hours in Childcare Versus Pre-K by Age 5

![Bar chart showing hours in childcare versus pre-K by age 5. Full-time childcare (birth to age 5) is significantly higher than full-day pre-K (at age 4). Source: Author's calculations.](image)

Figure 5. Nonworking Poor with Children Under Age 5: Reason for Not Working

- 71% Taking Care of Home/Family
- 11% Ill or Disabled
- 8% Going to School
- 7% Could not find work
- 3% Other
- 1% Retired
- 8%

Focus on Child Care

Early Childhood Education
System Structure

Early Childhood Education

1. Point of Entry

Integrated Early Childhood System:
Early Care and Learning; Health, Mental Health, Safety, and Nutrition; and Family Support

2. MDHS Case Management

3. Point of Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) Delivery

Comprehensive Child Care Center
- Meet licensing requirements
- nutrionally balanced professional development
- Curriculum signed with state guidelines/standards
- Annual self-assessment
- Meet requirements of standard child care center
- Comprehensive professional development
- Continuous improvement efforts
- Coaching to close staff-child ratios and credential gaps
- Annual child assessment
- Family engagement (biannual parent-teacher conferences)
- Center assessments to innovative and responsive
- Integrety partnerships
- Annual report based on child and center assessments
- Strategic action plan
- Continuous quality improvement plan
- Pay the quality translation plan
- IT infrastructure
- Business management plan

Child Care Service Provider

Reverse Referrals Based on Newly Identified Service Needs
Education and Workforce:
Mississippi Works

www.mississippiworls.org
Early Learning Collaboratives

- Mississippi has created multiple early learning collaboratives over the last five years

- Partnerships with school districts, Headstart centers, childcare centers, and non-profit organizations

- They have been recognized by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) for meeting quality standards for early childhood education
3rd Grade Gate

You shall not pass!!
Literacy-Based Promotion Act

- Legislation was created to improve reading skills of kindergarten through 3rd grade public school students.
  - Kindergarten entry assessment, screening 3 times per year with parent involvement every year through 3rd grade.
  
  - Reading Coaches to assist low-performing schools strengthen core reading instruction

- Re-training of all K-3 teachers on the Science of teaching Reading

- Screenings
  - Prior to the 2013 passage of the Literacy Based Promotion Act, 3rd grade literacy proficiency was 48%.
Critics Blast ‘Third-Grade Gate’
Jackson Free Press

As Mississippi delivers bad news to 5,600 third graders, stressed-out parents say there must be a better way

"JPS could have to retain up to 40 percent of the district's 2,100 third-graders."

"Cats and Dogs. Living together. MASS HYSTERIA!"
- Bill Murray, Ghostbuster

More than 5,000 Mississippi third-graders could be held back this year for low reading scores.

Hechinger report

MISS. THIRD-GRADE GATE:
FEAR OF FAILURE
Clarion Ledger
Results

MISSISSIPPI FOURTH GRADE NAEP READING SCORES

YEAR 3RD GRADE GATE WAS IMPLEMENTED
Welcome to the 4th Grade

93%

3rd Grade Gate
For more information contact:

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www.secac.ms.gov
Early experiences can affect a child’s ability to succeed in school and beyond. State policymakers play an important role in helping families access high-quality early care and education programs so children are ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. Learn from experts and legislative leaders about how to create high-quality programs and classroom environments that can help children overcome adversity, address the opportunity gap and promote school readiness.
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RESOURCES

- NCSL Early Care and Education Webpage:
- NCSL Early Learning and Support Webpage:
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