



Mississippi

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with ASCD, developed the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework to highlight the need for schools to address all aspects of children’s physical, mental, and social well-being to help them learn and thrive. In 2019, Child Trends, the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and EMT Associates, Inc. released the [first comprehensive analysis](#) of state statutes and regulations that address key topic areas in each of the WSCC’s 10 components as of September 2017. This updated profile documents the landscape of selected school health policies in Mississippi as of September 2019 and describes how those policies have changed since 2017. The profile also newly incorporates information about whether states have non-codified policies on topics for which they do not have codified statutes or regulations. The full set of topic areas, along with applicable statutory and regulatory language, is available through the National Association of State Boards of Education’s (NASBE) [State Policy Database on School Health](#). The national summary report and profiles for each state can be found on the [Child Trends website](#).

Policy Churn in Mississippi Statutes and Regulations, 2017 to 2019



| | Mississippi | National |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Community Involvement | 20% | 11% |
| Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services | 40% | 22% |
| Employee Wellness | 0% | 0% |
| Family Engagement | 0% | 11% |
| Health Education | 0% | 3% |
| Health Services | 0% | 2% |
| Nutrition Environment and Services | 0% | 3% |
| Physical Education and Activity | 0% | 2% |
| Physical Environment | 13% | 13% |
| Social and Emotional Climate | 0% | 10% |
| WSCC Reference | 0% | 0% |

*Orange shading indicates more churn in state policy than national average

Mississippi's approach to selected topic areas by domain

Overall Coverage of the WSCC

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Coverage of WSCC | Addresses coordinated school health | Addresses coordinated school health | no change |
| State-Level Wellness Councils | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| School-Level Wellness Councils | Required | Required | no change |
| District Wellness Policies | Required | Required | no change |

Health Education

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Discussion of LGB Topics in Health Education | NA | Not addressed or law specifically allows for inclusion of LGB topics | topic was not coded for 2017 |
| National HE Standards | Referenced | Referenced | no change |
| Bullying Prevention (within Health Education) | Not addressed | Non-codified policy only | no change |
| Healthy Eating/Nutrition Curriculum | Required in all grade levels | Required in all grade levels | no change |
| Mental and Emotional Health Curriculum | Required in all grade levels | Required in all grade levels | no change |
| Personal Health and Wellness Curriculum | Required in all grade levels | Required in all grade levels | no change |
| Suicide Prevention (within Health Education) | Required in some grade levels | Required in some grade levels | no change |
| Violence Prevention (within Health Education) | Not addressed | Non-codified policy only | no change |

Physical Education and Physical Activity

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|--|---|---|-----------|
| Adaptive PE Requirements | Addresses inclusivity of PE activity | Addresses inclusivity of PE activity | no change |
| PE Exemptions for Academics | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| PE Exemptions for Illness | Allowed | Allowed | no change |
| PE Exemptions for Disabilities | Allowed | Allowed | no change |
| PE Substitutions | Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements | Allows substitution of other activities for PE requirements | no change |
| District Waivers from PE Requirements | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Physical Activity Throughout Day | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| National PE Standards (SHAPE America) | Referenced | Referenced | no change |
| Time for PE -- Elementary | Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards | Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards | no change |
| Time for PE -- Middle | Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards | Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards | no change |
| Time for PE -- High | Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards | Recommends Meeting, or Requires Less than, National Standards | no change |
| Recess | Addressed or required less than daily | Addressed or required less than daily | no change |
| Sport Participation Fees | Requires sport participation fees | Requires sport participation fees | no change |

Social and Emotional Climate

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| Hazing Policy | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| Dating Violence Policy | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Limits on Exclusionary Discipline | Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion | Requires limits on use of suspension and expulsion | no change |
| Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| School Resource Officer Training | Required | Required | no change |
| Limits on Referrals to Law Enforcement | Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code | Requires referral for any offense in violation of criminal code | no change |
| Equitable Discipline Practices | Monitoring required | Monitoring required | no change |
| Multi-tiered Positive Behavior Supports | Required | Required | no change |
| School climate surveys | NA | Encouraged | topic was not coded for 2017 |
| Social-Emotional Learning or Character Development | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| Professional Development for Cultural Competency | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| Chronic Absenteeism Early Warning Systems | Not addressed or limited to transfer to law enforcement | Non-codified policy only | no change |
| Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy | Includes some components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations | Includes some components of U.S. Department of Education recommendations | no change |
| Professional Development for Bullying Prevention | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |

Counseling, Psychological and Social Services

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|--|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| School-based or School-linked Mental Health Services | Not addressed | Encouraged | more supportive/prescriptive |
| Professional Development for Trauma | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Professional Development for Mental Health | Not addressed | Required | more supportive/prescriptive |
| Early Identification and Referral | Not addressed | Encouraged or Required | more supportive/prescriptive |
| Professional Development for Suicide Prevention | Required | Required | no change |
| Suicide Prevention Policy | Required | Required | no change |
| School Counseling - Elementary | Encouraged | Required | more supportive/prescriptive |
| School Counseling - Secondary | Required | Required | no change |

Employee Wellness

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Staff Wellness Programs | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |

Physical Environment

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Emergency Operations Plans | Required, with regular reviews and updates | Required, with regular reviews and updates | no change |
| Threat assessment | NA | Required | topic was not coded for 2017 |
| Security and safety assessments | NA | Encouraged | topic was not coded for 2017 |
| Multi-hazard Practice Drills | Required without interagency coordination | Required, with required or encouraged interagency coordination | more supportive/prescriptive |
| Alcohol and Drug Use Intervention Programs | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Corporal Punishment | Permitted | Permitted | no change |
| Restraint and Seclusion | Limits use with some protections | Limits use and includes comprehensive protections | more supportive/prescriptive |
| Tobacco and Vaping Policies | NA | Addresses tobacco-free school policies but not vaping | topic was not coded for 2017 |

Health Services

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| School-based Health Services | Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics | Addresses on-campus health centers or clinics | no change |
| School Nurse Availability | Addressed, but nurse availability limited | Addressed, but nurse availability limited | no change |
| Healthy School Start Times | NA | Not addressed | topic was not coded for 2017 |
| Preventive Health Screenings - Elementary | Required | Required | no change |
| Preventive Health Screenings - Middle | Required | Required | no change |
| Preventive Health Screenings - High | Required | Required | no change |
| Vaccination Waivers | Not addressed | Non-codified policy only | no change |
| Referrals to Community Health Providers | Addressed | Addressed | no change |

Family Engagement

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| Family Engagement Plans | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| Professional Development on Family Engagement | Encouraged | Encouraged | no change |
| Family Engagement in Local Governance | Required | Required | no change |
| Family Engagement in Policymaking on School Discipline | Required | Required | no change |

Nutrition Environment and Services

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|---|--|--|-----------|
| USDA School Nutritional Standards | Required | Required | no change |
| Unhealthy Marketing Restrictions | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Strategies to Increase Breakfast | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Access to Potable Water Throughout Day | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |
| Competitive Food (Outside of School Meals) | Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades | Meets federal Smart Snacks standards in all grades | no change |
| Unpaid Meal Charge Policy | Not addressed | Not addressed | no change |

Community Involvement

| | SY 17-18 | SY 19-20 | Change |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community Involvement in Local Governance | Required | Required | no change |
| School-Community Interagency Partnerships | Not addressed | Encouraged | more supportive/prescriptive |
| Community Use of Public School Facilities | Authorized and Encouraged | Authorized and Encouraged | no change |