



**MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

*Ensuring a bright future for every child*

**Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education**

Office of Communications & Legislative Support

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**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release: January 23, 2017*

**MDE Schedules Regional Literacy Meetings for Parents of K-3 Students**

JACKSON, Miss – In an effort to assist school districts with the implementation of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, the Mississippi Department of Education is conducting regional meetings for parents of Kindergarten through 3rd grade students. Parents will receive an overview of the legislation and assessment, as well as strategies that can be used at home to help improve reading outcomes for children.

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act focuses on prevention and intervention to help children develop the reading skills required for 4th grade. The legislation requires that 3rd grade students who do not meet reading standards by the end of the school year will not be promoted to 4th grade, unless they meet standards for exemption.

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act has made reading instruction a major focus of Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Throughout the school year, teachers have been providing intensive reading instruction to students reading below grade level. Parent involvement is also critical to students' success.

“Parents are their child’s first teacher, and reading with children is a proven way to promote early literacy,” said Dr. Kymyona Burk, state literacy director. “By reading with children for 20 minutes per day and making a few simple strategies a part of their daily routine, parents can make a positive impact on their child’s success in school.”

**Parent meeting dates and locations:**

All meetings will be held from **6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** No registration is required.

| <b><u>Date</u></b>          | <b><u>City</u></b> | <b><u>Location</u></b>   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Thursday, February 16, 2017 | Oxford             | <b>Oxford Conference Center</b><br>102 Ed Perry Blvd Oxford,<br>MS 38655 |



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|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Tuesday, February 21, 2017  | Jackson (North) | <b>McWillie Elementary School</b><br>4851 McWillie Circle<br>Jackson, MS 39206                         |
| Tuesday, February 21, 2017  | Jackson (South) | <b>Bates Elementary School</b><br>3180 McDowell Road Ext.<br>Jackson, MS 39204                         |
| Tuesday, February 21, 2017  | Meridian        | <b>MSU Kahlmus Auditorium</b><br>1000 Hwy 19 N<br>Meridian, MS 39307                                   |
| Thursday, February 23, 2017 | Gulfport        | <b>Harrison County School<br/>District Center for Excellence</b><br>11072 Hwy 49<br>Gulfport, MS 39503 |
| Monday, February 27, 2017   | Cleveland       | <b>Delta State University<br/>Jacob Center (Ewing Hall)</b><br>Highway 8 West<br>Cleveland, MS 38733   |
| Tuesday, February 28, 2017  | Hattiesburg     | <b>Woodall Center</b><br>906 Sullivan Drive<br>Hattiesburg, MS 39401                                   |

Schools and parents are encouraged to download and share the meeting announcement:

<http://bit.ly/2jJk754>

Please direct questions to Dr. Kymyona Burk, state literacy director, at

[kymyona.burk@mdek12.org](mailto:kymyona.burk@mdek12.org) or 601-359-2586.

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