

Update from Mississippi KIDS COUNT



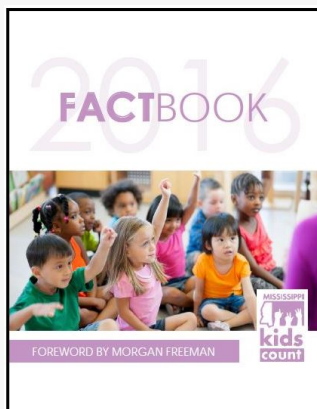
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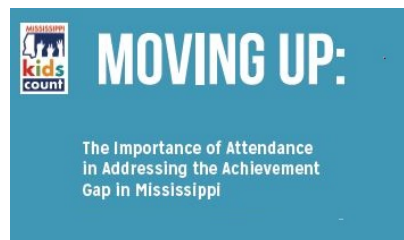
Our National KIDS COUNT data center provides state rankings for four domains: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family & Community.

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**MS Fact Book
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Get the Latest Mississippi KIDS COUNT Policy Brief!



"Moving Up: The Importance of Attendance in Addressing the Achievement Gap in Mississippi"

is the latest Mississippi KIDS COUNT policy brief that focuses a lens on the importance of school attendance and the impact it can have on student achievement. In particular, researchers examined the demographics of students who fall into the lowest-achieving quartile and then looked to see if good attendance could play a role in helping them to move out of that category. The research was modeled after a study conducted by the Denver Public School System to examine trends impacting students who fall into what the Denver system calls the "Opportunity Quartile." The term refers to students who, based on state achievement scores, are most in need of significant intervention.

Mississippi KIDS COUNT researchers analyzed MCT2 language arts test scores provided by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) from 3rd graders in the 2008-2009 school year and compared them to the same group of students five years later when they took the 8th grade language arts MCT2 test. This comparison first allowed them to see the characteristics of students in the Opportunity Quartile and whether they had any movement out of it over time. 40.7% of students in Mississippi's Opportunity Quartile are black males, followed by black females at 28.5%.



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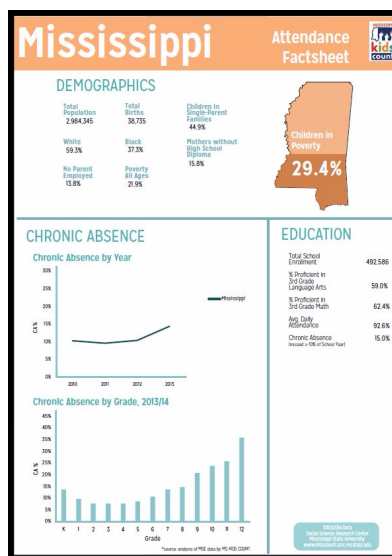


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Overall, only 26% of students who were in the Opportunity Quartile in 3rd grade had moved up by 8th grade. More females than males moved out of the quartile. Attendance did positively impact the group. Of those students who were never chronically absent (defined as missing at least 10% of a 180 day school year), 30% had moved out of the Opportunity Quartile prior to the beginning of high school compared to 12.1% of students who were chronically absent in the year of the test and in a previous year.

To access the policy brief, click [here](#).

Download Your County Attendance Fact Sheet



Want to learn more about chronic absence in your county and your school district? Take a look at the newly-released Mississippi KIDS COUNT **Attendance Fact Sheets**. These county-by-county fact sheets include the chronic absence rates for every school district located in each county along with chronic absence rates by grade. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) is also included for each district along with demographic information, school district accountability ratings and test score results.

It's important to remember that Chronic Absence rates differ from Average Daily Attendance. Often school districts may have a high ADA, and can still have a chronic absence problem. Schools can focus on ADA and may

mistakenly assume that a high ADA is an indicator of healthy attendance. For example, a school of 200 students with a 95% ADA can have a chronic absence problem if 60 of those students (30%) miss 18 or more days over the course of the school year.

You can access the county fact sheets [here](#).

The 2016 National KIDS COUNT Data Book To Be Released June 21st!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 21st! The 2016 National KIDS COUNT Data Book and State Ranked Profiles will be available. You will be able to download your copy from our Mississippi KIDS COUNT website [here](#).



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