



THE CHAIR'S REPORT

MARCH 2025

SHELBY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Message from Chair Dorse Coleman

Dear MSCS Supporter,

Welcome to the latest edition of "The Chair's Report." This monthly e-newsletter provides activity highlights, offers updates on key issues facing the school District and shares the board's position with you.

STAYING UNITED FOR OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

At this critical moment, we must stand united for our children, our families and the future of our district. A group of Tennessee state legislators is attempting to pass Senate Bill 714/House Bill 662 titled the "Tennessee Public School Accountability Act," which threatens local control of Memphis-Shelby County Schools, and we cannot allow our voices to be silenced.

Our schools are the foundation of our community. Every student, educator and parent deserves a district that is led by those who understand and prioritize their needs. We have made tremendous strides in improving academic outcomes, expanding opportunities and ensuring our children have the resources they need to succeed. A state takeover would jeopardize that progress.

Now more than ever, we must come together—families, educators and community leaders—to protect our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



IN THIS ISSUE

DISTRICT 7 HIGHLIGHTS

DISTRICT 8 HIGHLIGHTS

DISTRICT 9 HIGHLIGHTS



Memphis-Shelby County Schools

160 S. Hollywood St.

Memphis, TN 38112

(901) 416-5300



schools. We will not let outside forces dictate the future of our students. We urge you to stay informed, engaged and ready to take action.

Let's show the strength of our community by standing together. Our children deserve nothing less.

IT'S TIME TO LOCK IN AND LEVEL UP FOR TCAP

We are a few days away from TCAP testing. Starting April 14, students in grades 3–12 will take the state-mandated Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests in various subjects including English language arts, math, science, social studies, etc. Visit www.scsk12.org/testing for more information and testing resources.

2025–2026 ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

Enrollment and registration for the 2025–26 school year is open. All students who attend any MSCS school need to register annually. This applies to new and returning students. Visit www.scsk12.org/pickenroll to register today.

SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

Registration for our 2025 Summer Learning Academy opens March 31 and will close April 18. Students in grades K–9 will have four weeks of reading and math instruction as well as intervention and physical activity for rising 1st through 8th graders. Visit scsk12.org/summer to learn more and to register.

DISTRICT 7 HIGHLIGHTS, TOWANNA MURPHY, BOARD MEMBER



Board Member Towanna Murphy greeting students at Cromwell Elementary.

“Y on the Fly” at Cromwell Elementary: Earlier this month, Board Member Murphy took part in “Y on the Fly” at Cromwell Elementary. “Y on the Fly” is a grant-funded program by the YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South that contains two mobile units. It is designed to deliver programs and services to youth in neighborhoods throughout Memphis that



(L-R) Board Member Towanna Murphy with Bully the Bull at Alcy Elementary.

currently are unable to take full advantage of YMCA programs and services.

Anti-Bullying Rally at Alcy Elementary: Board Member Murphy recently visited Alcy Elementary for their anti-bullying rally. Bully the Bull was there to teach the students about the importance of not bullying others.



Board Member Towanna Murphy (L) and Principal Dr. Tiffany Curry (R) with students at Crump Elementary.

Crump Elementary Visit: Board Member Murphy recently visited Crump Elementary, toured the campus and met the faculty, staff and students.

DISTRICT 8 HIGHLIGHTS, AMBER HUETT-GARCIA, BOARD MEMBER

Memphis Business Journal's 2025 40 Under 40: Board Member Huett-Garcia was recently announced as part of the Memphis Business Journal's Class of 2025 40 under 40 for her work in the community. Congratulations, Board Member Huett-Garcia!



Board Member Amber Huett-Garcia (middle) with first-grade students at White Station Elementary.

“Y on the Fly” at White Station Elementary: Board Member Huett-Garcia stopped by White Station Elementary School’s “Y on the Fly” event, which was part of a two-week tour to build stronger community connections, to bring hands-on learning and physical activity to students and to increase access to enrichment activities.

DISTRICT 9 HIGHLIGHTS, JOYCE DORSE COLEMAN, BOARD CHAIR




Mobile Food Pantry Drive-Thru Distribution: The Shelby County Board of Education, in partnership with the Mid-South Food Bank and MSCS Family and Community Engagement, hosted the three-day Mobile Food Pantry Drive-Thru Distribution to give food to more than 700 families to ensure that MSCS families had access to food during spring break.

Mobile Food Pantry Drive-Thru distributed food to more than 700 MSCS families during spring break.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Memphis-Shelby County Schools Board of Education wants to stay connected to you. We have created social media platforms for you to follow the work of your school board directly. Follow us on:

- | | | |
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|  | Facebook | mscsc12board |
|  | Instagram | mscsc12board |
|  | Twitter/X | mscsc12board |

Your school board members look forward to connecting with you.

IMPORTANT DATES

TCAP Testing Begins

- April 14

Good Friday

- April 18

Students Return to School

- April 21

April Board Work Session

- April 22

April Board Business Meeting

- April 29

Summer Learning Academy & Promotional Summer School

- June 2–30

All Board Business Meetings and Work Sessions can be joined in person, viewed live online and on C19TV, or heard on 88.5FM.

ON A FINAL NOTE

As we wrap up another month of progress, collaboration and achievement, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our students and schools. March has been a month of growth and opportunity, and together, we are making a lasting impact on the future of education in our district.

As we move forward, let's continue to work hand

in hand to create an environment where every student has the resources and encouragement they need to thrive. Your engagement, passion and commitment make all the difference.

Thank you for being a vital part of our MSCS family. Let's finish the school year strong!

**Joyce Dorse Coleman, Chair,
Shelby County Board of Education**