

MSCS Pathway to Greatness

A Cradle-to-Career Roadmap for Student Success



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Presented by:

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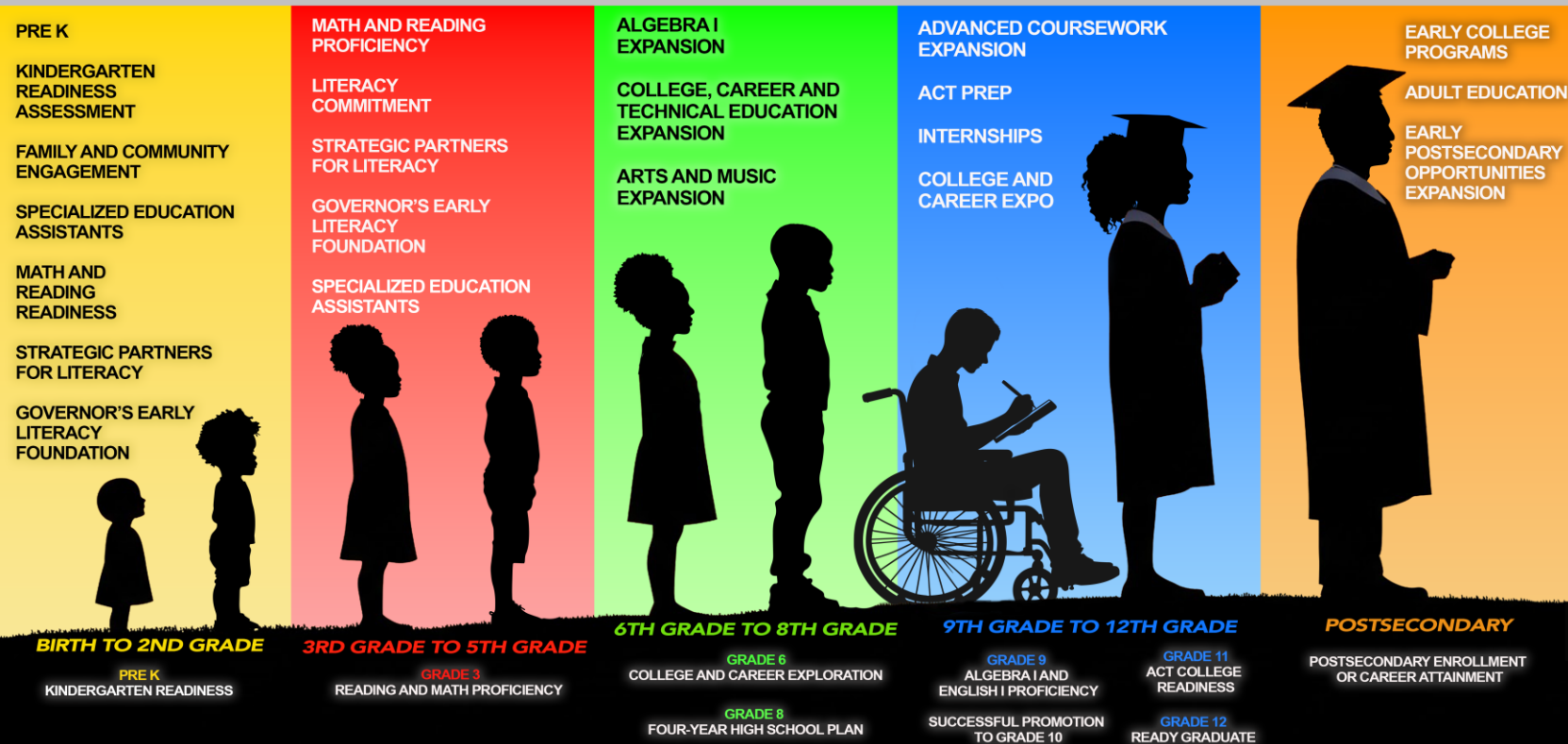




Pathway to Greatness

5 A's: Academics, Attendance, Attitude, Athletics, Arts

Teacher and Leader Effectiveness • Master Scheduling • MSCS Health Clinics • Virtual Learning • Multi-Tiered System of Supports • Radio Read-a-Long • Extended Learning
Student Engagement • Community Solutions Project • Accelerated Reader • Days of Peace • Curriculum Maps • Innovation Labs • Parent Engagement • Dyslexia Intervention • Discovery Memphis



What Is the Pathway to Greatness?

The Pathway to Greatness is Memphis-Shelby County Schools' cradle-to-career framework — a unified road map that aligns every student, family, school, and community partner around one shared commitment: ensuring every young person graduates prepared for college, career, and life.

ONE Road Map

A single, shared framework used by every school, teacher, parent, and community partner — from birth through post-secondary attainment.

FIVE Pillars

The Five A's — Academics, Attendance, Attitude, Athletics, and Arts — address the whole child at every stage of development.

FIVE Grade Bands

Specific programs, milestones, and supports are mapped to each grade band: Birth–2nd, 3rd–5th, 6th–8th, 9th–12th, and Post-Secondary.

The Five A's

Our Framework for the Whole Child



The 5 A's Framework

The Foundation of Student Success

Together, these five areas create the whole child approach to education.



Academics

Ensuring every student develops strong literacy, numeracy, and critical-thinking skills.

Attendance

Promoting consistent attendance because students cannot learn if they are not present.

Attitude

Building social-emotional learning (SEL), resilience, character, leadership, and positive behavior.

Athletics

Providing opportunities that teach teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and healthy lifestyles.

Arts

Expanding creativity, innovation, self-expression, and cultural appreciation.

The Five A's — Our Whole-Child Framework

The Five A's are the pillars of the Pathway to Greatness. They ensure MSCS addresses every dimension of a student's growth — not just academic performance, but the social, emotional, physical, and creative development that produces thriving, well-rounded graduates.

A

Academics

Rigorous instruction, grade-level mastery, literacy, math proficiency, and college/career-ready coursework across all grade bands.

A

Attendance

Consistent presence and engagement. Strong attendance habits, built early, are the single strongest predictor of student success.

A

Attitude

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). Building self-awareness, self-management, empathy, healthy relationships, and responsible decision-making.

A

Athletics

Physical health, teamwork, discipline, and character development through sports, physical education, and wellness programming.

A

Arts

Creative expression, cultural awareness, and cognitive development through music, visual arts, theater, and arts-integrated learning.

Universal Programs & Supports

*District-Wide Initiatives Impacting
Every Student Across All Grade Bands*



Universal Programs & Supports — The Gray Areas

The "gray areas" on the Pathway to Greatness represent universal district-wide programs and supports deployed across ALL grade bands. These are the connective tissue of the road map — ensuring no student falls through the cracks regardless of grade level.

Teacher & Leader Effectiveness:	Recruiting, developing, and retaining high-quality educators and administrators in every school.	Master Scheduling:	Strategic scheduling that maximizes instructional time, ensures access to coursework, and supports intervention blocks.
MSCS Health Clinics:	School-based health services that remove medical barriers to attendance and learning.	Virtual Learning:	Expanded digital and online coursework providing flexible access to rigorous instruction.
Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS):	A three-tiered framework matching the intensity of support to each student's academic and behavioral needs.	Radio Read-a-Long:	Community-wide literacy initiative connecting families and schools through shared reading experiences.
Extended Learning:	Before/after-school and summer programs that extend the academic day and year for enrichment and intervention.	Student Engagement:	Strategies and programs that ensure students are active, motivated participants in their own education.
Community Solutions Project:	Partnerships with community organizations to address systemic barriers facing students and families.	Accelerated Reader:	Data-driven reading program that builds comprehension, fluency, and a love of reading across grade levels.
Days of Peace:	District-wide initiative fostering safe, respectful school climates and violence prevention.	Curriculum Maps:	Aligned, grade-by-grade instructional guides ensuring consistent, standards-based teaching across all classrooms.
Innovation Labs:	STEM-focused learning spaces providing hands-on, project-based learning experiences.	Parent Engagement:	Structured family involvement programs that empower parents as partners in their child's education.
Dyslexia Intervention:	Evidence-based screening and support for students with dyslexia and related reading challenges.	Discovery Memphis:	Experiential learning and enrichment connecting students to cultural, civic, and professional opportunities across Memphis.

The Pathway by Grade Band — Road Map Overview

Each grade band has targeted programs, key milestones, and grade-specific benchmarks that build on one another from birth through post-secondary attainment.

Birth–2nd Grade	3rd–5th Grade	6th–8th Grade	9th–12th Grade	Post-Secondary
Key Milestone: Pre-K • Kindergarten Readiness	Key Milestone: Grade 3: Reading & Math Proficiency	Key Milestone: Grade 6: Career Exploration Grade 8: 4-Year HS Plan	Key Milestone: Grade 9: Algebra I & English I Grade 10: On Track Grade 12: Ready Graduate	Key Milestone: Post-Secondary Enrollment or Career Attainment
Programs: - Pre K - Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Family & Community Engagement - Specialized Education Assistants - Math & Reading Readiness - Strategic Partners for Literacy - Governor's Early Literacy Foundation	Programs: - Math & Reading Proficiency - Literacy Commitment - Strategic Partners for Literacy - Governor's Early Literacy Foundation - Specialized Education Assistants	Programs: - Algebra I Expansion - College, Career & Technical Education Expansion - Arts & Music Expansion	Programs: - Advanced Coursework Expansion - ACT Prep - Internships - College & Career Expo	Programs: - Early College Programs - Adult Education - Early Post-Secondary Opportunities Expansion

Birth through 2nd Grade — Ready to Learn

Grade Band: Birth – 2nd Grade | Key Milestones: Pre-K Participation • Kindergarten Readiness

The Pathway to Greatness begins at birth. MSCS partners with early childhood providers, health agencies, and families to ensure every child arrives at kindergarten healthy, socially ready, and academically curious. This grade band lays the non-negotiable literacy and numeracy foundations that all future learning depends upon. Early identification of developmental needs, access to quality Pre-K, parent education, and strong family engagement are central to this stage.

Pre-K:	Quality early childhood education providing a structured, nurturing environment that prepares children socially and academically before kindergarten.	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment:	Screening tools that identify each child's developmental readiness and inform early intervention and instructional planning.
Family & Community Engagement:	Parent workshops, home literacy programs, and community partnerships that extend learning beyond the classroom from day one.	Specialized Education Assistants:	Trained paraprofessionals who provide targeted support for students with diverse learning needs in inclusive classroom settings.
Math & Reading Readiness:	Intentional instruction in number sense, phonemic awareness, and early literacy skills aligned to kindergarten benchmarks.	Strategic Partners for Literacy:	Community and business partnerships that expand access to books, tutors, and literacy-rich experiences for all young learners.
	Governor's Early Literacy Foundation:	State-aligned initiative providing resources, coaching, and accountability to accelerate early literacy outcomes across Pre-K–2nd grade.	

3rd through 5th Grade — Building Proficiency

Grade Band: 3rd–5th Grade | Key Milestone: Grade 3 – Reading and Math Proficiency

Third grade is the critical pivot point of the Pathway to Greatness. Research is clear: students who are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. MSCS deploys intensive literacy and math supports during this grade band to ensure every student crosses the proficiency threshold. Strong attendance habits, a growth mindset, and family involvement are equally essential during these foundational years.

Math & Reading Proficiency:	Data-driven, standards-aligned instruction with daily intervention blocks ensuring every student achieves grade-level mastery in both core subjects.
Literacy Commitment:	A district-wide pledge and action plan ensuring all students can read with fluency, comprehension, and confidence by the end of 3rd grade.
Strategic Partners for Literacy:	Business and community volunteers providing mentoring, tutoring, and reading programs that support literacy growth inside and outside school.
Governor's Early Literacy Foundation:	Continued state support through 5th grade, providing coaching, materials, and accountability for sustained literacy improvement.
Specialized Education Assistants:	Targeted paraprofessional support for students requiring individualized instruction, ensuring equitable access to grade-level content.

6th through 8th Grade — Exploring Pathways

Grade Band: 6th–8th Grade | Grade 6: College & Career Exploration • Grade 8: Four-Year High School Plan

Middle school is a pivotal transition — a time of rapid personal, social, and academic change. MSCS focuses this grade band on accelerating coursework access, deepening college and career awareness, and developing the whole student. By 8th grade, every student develops a personalized four-year high school plan that aligns their strengths, interests, and goals to a clear post-secondary pathway. The arts and technical education expand horizons and unlock new possibilities for every learner.

Algebra I Expansion:

Accelerated access to Algebra I ensures middle schoolers are mathematically prepared for rigorous high school coursework and college-ready trajectories.

College, Career & Technical Education Expansion:

CTE programs introduce students to career pathways — from healthcare to technology — with hands-on, industry-aligned learning experiences.

Arts & Music Expansion:

Broadened access to visual arts, music, theater, and dance programs that develop creativity, cultural competency, and cognitive skills across all students.

9th through 12th Grade — Launch Ready

Grade Band: 9th–12th | Grade 9: Algebra I & English I Proficiency • Grade 10: Successful Promotion • Grade 11: ACT Readiness • Grade 12: Ready Graduate

High school is where the Pathway to Greatness culminates — and where MSCS raises the bar highest. Every student graduates with a personalized post-secondary plan: college, technical certification, military, or career entry. Advanced coursework, real-world internships, ACT preparation, and college and career expos ensure students are not just earning diplomas — they are ready to thrive in whatever comes next.

Advanced Coursework Expansion

AP, IB, dual enrollment, and honors courses provide rigorous, college-level academic challenges and the opportunity to earn post-secondary credit while still in high school.

ACT Prep

Targeted preparation resources, practice assessments, and coaching to maximize every student's ACT score and broaden their college and scholarship opportunities.

Internships

Paid and structured work-based learning with business and community partners, giving students real-world professional experience aligned to their career interests.

College & Career Expo

Annual district-wide event connecting students with college representatives, employers, military branches, and technical programs to explore post-secondary options firsthand.

Post-Secondary — Thriving Beyond the Diploma

Post-Secondary | Key Milestone: Post-Secondary Enrollment OR Career Attainment

The Pathway does not end at graduation — it evolves. MSCS tracks post-secondary outcomes, maintains alumni connections, and partners with higher education institutions, workforce agencies, and employers to ensure our graduates persist and succeed. A diploma is the beginning, not the destination. The measure of greatness is what our students build with it.

Early College Programs:

Dual enrollment, early college high schools, and articulation agreements allowing students to begin post-secondary coursework before graduation — reducing time, cost, and barriers to a degree.

Adult Education:

GED, ESL, and workforce skills programs for students and community members who need a flexible, supported pathway to credential attainment.

Early Post-Secondary Opportunities Expansion:

Broadened access to apprenticeships, registered training programs, and industry certifications that connect graduates to the regional workforce with in-demand credentials.

How You Can Help — Every Partner Matters

The Pathway to Greatness is not a school initiative — it is a community commitment. Here is how each partner plays a critical role:

Parents & Families

- Ensure your child attends school every day — attendance matters from Pre-K forward
- Attend parent nights, conferences, and school events
- Talk with your child about college, careers, and their goals
- Connect with school counselors early and often
- Read with your child and create a home learning environment

Community Organizations

- Provide mentoring, tutoring, and safe after-school spaces
- Support family stability through wraparound services
- Host career exposure and enrichment programming
- Participate in Days of Peace and Community Solutions initiatives
- Join school partnership and advisory councils

Business Leaders

- Offer job shadowing, internships, and apprenticeship opportunities
- Sponsor scholarships and industry credential programs
- Serve on CTE and workforce advisory boards
- Mentor students and serve as career role models
- Invest in early literacy and STEM programs in your community

The Parent's Role

Partners in Student Success

Parents are a child's first teacher and most important advocate.

Ways parents support the pathway:

- Ensure daily attendance
- Read with children
- Participate in school activities
- Monitor academic progress
- Support positive behavior
- Encourage extracurricular involvement

Strong schools require strong partnerships with families.



The Business Community's Role

Building Tomorrow's Workforce Today

Business and community partners play a critical role by providing:

- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Mentorships
- Career Exposure
- Workforce Partnerships
- Scholarships
- Facility Investments

Every student pathway should connect to economic opportunity.



Measuring Success

Our District Scorecard

The Pathway to Greatness is measured through:

Academics

- Literacy Rates
- Math Proficiency
- ACT Scores
- Graduation Rates



Attendance

- Average Daily
- Attendance
- Chronic
- Absenteeism



Attitude

- Student Climate
- Surveys
- Behavioral
- Indicators



Athletics

- Participation
- Rates
- Student
- Engagement



Arts

- Fine Arts
- Participation
- Student
- Performances





Call to Action

Join Us on the Pathway to Greatness

Together, we can ensure:

- Students are prepared.
- Families are engaged.
- Schools are supported.
- Communities are strengthened.
- Memphis thrives.

"The success of Memphis-Shelby County Schools is directly connected to the future success of Memphis and Shelby County."



Together, We Build The Pathway to Greatness.

Academics

Attendance

Attitude

Athletics

Arts

The Five A's — Academics, Attendance, Attitude, Athletics, and Arts — are our shared promise to every child in Memphis-Shelby County. From birth through a thriving career, MSCS commits to walking this road alongside every student, every family, and every partner.

Let's walk this road together.

Thank You!

Greatness Grows Here!

