



mississippi association of
partners in education

2011 Governor's Awards

Amory School District and Gilmore Foundation

Duration of partnership: 6 years

14+ volunteers

Impacts 1,885 students

Activities: Between 2006-2010, Foundation has donated approximately \$817,000 to district. Funds used to purchase laptops for every high-school senior; computer lab established at middle school and technology equipment given to vocational center. Funding for AmoryNet to provide high-speed wireless Internet access to entire community. Hired part-time school nurse, expanded Coordinated School Health Program. Renovations in high-school auditorium. Graduation coach hired to assist at-risks students and strengthen drop-out prevention efforts. Teenage pregnancy prevention education program. "Virginia Fund" to purchase coats for needy children. Gilmore Early Learning Initiative to better prepare students entering kindergarten. Conference center built for district.

Results: Graduation rates improved from 100th place in the state to 5th place from 2006-2009. Students have access to a modern computer lab. TeenBiz reading programs increased nearly every student's reading level over a two-year period. All students and teachers have access to nursing care during the school day and beyond.

Brown Elementary (Jackson) and Millsaps College - 100% Adopt-A-Class Program

Duration of partnership: 4 years

90 volunteers

Impacts 200 students

Activities: Every classroom adopted by different student organizations at Millsaps, in addition to library, music and after-school programs. Volunteers tutored, mentored and provided enrichment and morale-building activities, e.g., art projects, holiday parties, uniform drives, field trips. Volunteers hosted Fall Carnival, judged science fair projects and set up new science lab, developed science learning modules for 1st and 5th grades, donated books and gave \$100 gifts to each classroom per semester to support academic and enrichment events. Web-based resources, consultations offered by Millsaps to partnership volunteers.

Results: 300+ onsite volunteer hours per semester documented. Total of 600 volunteer hours and \$15,000 in volunteer, academic and enrichment resources. Variety of one-on-one and group learning activities benefited every individual student. Partnership has helped raise morale of teachers, staff, students and families and provided valuable educational, leadership and character-development experiences for Millsaps volunteers.

B.L. Bell Academy (Boyle) and Delta State University Healthy Campus/Community Initiative: Fit-Tastic Fridays

Duration of partnership: 1 year

4 volunteers

Impacts 84 students

Activities: Fit-Tastic Fridays launched at school to improve diet and fitness habits and education for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Involved registered dietitian, fitness coordinator and DSU physical education and nutrition majors to provide professional oversight and instruction. Activities included hands-on nutritional and fitness activities and parental involvement.

Results: Encouraged positive behavioral changes and increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Assessments showed a 23% increase in knowledge of healthy nutrition and 18% increase in the number of students enjoying physically active games at recess.

Cleveland School District and Delta State University College of Education, Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation - Project PEAK (Physical Education and Active Lifestyle for Kids)

Duration of partnership: 3 years

50+ volunteers

Impacts 3,566 students

Activities: Partnership created Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant to provide funding for PE equipment, staff and support. PEAK Project has provided district with improved capabilities to meet Code 4012 of the Miss. Public Schools Accountability Standards.

Results: K-12 district curriculum guide implemented to coordinate PE instruction. Teachers and project staff trained on guide implementation. Test data shows a higher percentage of students have moved to the “healthy zone” and a decrease of students in the “at risk” category. 13% increase in students who are healthy weight for their age and gender. Gains made in optimal body fat percentage, cardiovascular fitness, abdominal muscular fitness and upper-body flexibility.

N.R. Burger Middle School Parent Student Teacher Association (Hattiesburg), Target and Dollar General - Reading Through the Arts

Duration of partnership: 1 year

15 volunteers

Impacts 648 students

Activities: Secured books for 6 English classes and donation from Books A Million. Held PTSA/Parent Reading Fair Workshop and organized after-school tutoring and assistance with Reading Fair projects. Sponsored Reading Through Arts Exhibit Night featuring work of 22 students and 3 teachers; work judged by Dollar General, community reps.

Results: Enhanced reading, comprehension skills. Generated over 450 Reading Fair display boards in 2010, an increase from 300 in 2009. Improvements in reading scores anticipated. Increase in parent participation for academic engagement. Projects presented to audience of 200, including parents, students, teachers and community leaders.

2011 Partnership Excellence Awards

Amory School District and Dalrymple Family Foundation

Duration of partnership: 114 years

+14 volunteers

Impacts 1,885 students

Activities: Foundation donated building to be used as central office. Building, furnishings and land estimated at \$250,000. Foundation launched and expanded the Coordinated School Health Program by partnering with other local school groups to provide a part-time school nurse, establish Medicaid clinics at school sites and expand health-education activities at all schools. More recently the Foundation donated a building to the district to be used for a family enrichment and adult-learning center. Building and land are valued at \$250,000.

Results: Total donations of \$500,000 to district. Central office used for school board meetings; creates professional environment. Coordinated School Health Program has resulted in student-nurse ratio of 600:1, which is well within proposed ratio set forth in the national model. Amory Middle School named one of the top 10 healthiest schools in the nation by Health Magazine (2008). Foundation provided automated external defibrillators to all schools in district. Amory Learning Center offers academic and life-enrichment programs to teachers and students and broadens connection between parental involvement and student achievement. Center offers GED prep classes.

Amory School District and Quality Education Foundation

Duration of partnership: 15 years

75+ volunteers

Impacts 1,885 students

Activities: Goal of QEF and district to provide creative, innovative projects to encourage student learning. Funding provided to teachers in the form of competitive grants ranging from \$1,000-\$4,000 each. Since 1997 QEF has given more than \$300,000 to the district to fund special projects, including art, music education, theater, math, reading, health and fitness, technology and ACT preparation. Also provide funding for Envirothon program, "Capturing Kids Hearts" program. Science Carnival held since 2004. CPR and first-aid training, fitness centers established for district.

Results: QEF funds 15-20 projects annually. Ongoing student academic gains in reading, math, science and English. More learning materials available in media center. ACT prep classes helped improve student scores by an average of 3.4 points. Amory Middle School named one of the top 10 healthiest schools in the nation by Health Magazine (2008).

Boyd Elementary (Jackson) and Fondren Renaissance Foundation & Additional Partners - “Come Hang with Us”

Duration of partnership: 11 years

3 volunteers

Impacts 411 students

Activities: Project designed to establish closer relationship with community. For a week in March, students participated in hour-long workshops with local artists as they prepared for an art show called “Come Hang With Us.” Fondren Renaissance Foundation organized workshops and donated art supplies. Auditorium converted to art studio each day. Student artwork displayed in exhibits organized at school, the Mississippi Arts Center and the Cedars. Participating artists: Kit Fields, Dr. John Jackson, Allison Hobson Davis, Ann Seale, John Howell, Roz Roy and Ellen Langford.

Results: Teachers noticed 10-20% increase in assessment scores after project implementation. Student engagement increased by 90%. School’s academic level increased from “at risk of failing” to “high performing.” PTA meeting attendance increased by more than 110%; approximately 300 parents, community members viewed student exhibits.

Clinton School District and Baptist Healthplex, Mississippi College, Clinton News, WLBT-3 and multiple donors and sponsors – Arrow Meltdown

Duration of partnership: 2 years

30 volunteers

Impacts 4,600 students

Activities: “Arrow Meltdown” contest modeled after “Biggest Loser” consisting of 12-week fitness and nutrition “boot camps” for parents and teachers. Total of 16 out of 65 applicants were screened and selected by a professional panel to participate. After contest, partnership organized Healthy Family Day health fair that included final contest weigh-in and announcement of winner. Angela Thompson, mother of 5 who lost 22% of her body weight, won grand prize of \$4,000.

Results: Combined weight loss of all participants was 500 pounds. Contest influenced students and teachers to focus more on fitness and nutrition. Each school in district (7) held faculty and staff weight-loss contests during Meltdown.

Franklin Academy Medical Sciences & Wellness Magnet School (Columbus) and Frank P. Phillips YMCA

Duration of partnership: 3 years

6 volunteers

Impacts 412 students

Activities: Students allowed to use YMCA gym, inside walking track and equipment. Larger space allows students to participate in team sports, learn teamwork and build self-esteem. YMCA employs 3 staff members to work directly with students. Students allowed longer activity periods on YMCA days.

Results: Activities helping build communication and social skills through increased community interaction. Also building positive relationships with law enforcement officers due to close proximity to Lowndes County Courthouse. Student absentee and tardy rates decrease on YMCA days. Real-life experiences help build character.

George Elementary (Jackson), Fondren Presbyterian Church, Colonial Heights Baptist Church and Hinds County Sheriff's Department - One Call That's All

Duration of partnerships: 25 years – Fondren Presbyterian; 15 years – HCSD, Colonial Heights
1,345 volunteers
Impacts 280 Students

Activities: Partners help plan activities to increase community involvement such as Level Five Celebration and Star School Parade. Annual activities enhance bonding between school and community, such as “Women Empowering Girls” and “Men Empowering Boys” breakfasts. Volunteers assist students in absence of a parent. Other activities include Read Across America Day, Dr. Seuss’ Birthday, Celebrity Readers Day, Reading is Not a Trick, It’s a Treat Day, Book Nic, Dr. Martin Luther King Day and Kindergarten and Fifth Grade Promotion Exercise. Incentives provided for students on president’s list and honor roll. Volunteers are mentors, Book Buddies.

Results: Outstanding gains in academic excellence in last 7 years in weekly assessments, District Nine Weeks Test and Mississippi Curriculum Test Scores. 2010 MCT2 data for three-year grade level comparisons show marked improvements in language arts and math for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, with George Elementary’s averages outperforming state and district averages almost every year.

John Hopkins Elementary (Jackson) and Dayspring Community Church

Duration of partnership: 2 years
40 volunteers
Impacts 499 students

Activities: Dayspring has launched activities to ensure high-quality learning. Book Buddies program has 21+ participants who volunteer weekly, with new PBIS component for students needing extra attention. Princess Club program helps 120 girls in 3rd – 5th grades focus on character-building and self-development activities, with monthly guest speakers and Princess Ball held at year’s end for mothers and community guests. Partnership organizes building and campus beautification activities.

Results: STAR Reading Assessments showed that students had significant reading comprehension growth after Book Buddy sessions (average four months’ growth); two students showed 12 months’ reading comprehension growth. Facility and furniture repairs have improved safety.

Johnson Elementary (Jackson) and Jackson Roadmap to Health Equity

Duration of partnership: 2 years

Impacts 384 students

Activities: Implemented physical fitness into school community 4 days a week, including dance classes and sports activities. Zumba, fitness instructors lead exercise classes during the week and offer lessons on fitness, health and diet. Staff can work out free of charge in gym and also have access to nutritionist. Farmer visited to discuss agriculture and fresh produce. Volunteers act as mentors for male students.

Results: Students observed making healthier choices in food items and exercise. Increased student exercise activity noticed during play periods. Students doing more physical exercise at home versus watching TV. School attendance has increased while illnesses have slightly decreased according to school clinic. Stronger collaboration among teachers since program began.

Power APAC (Jackson) and Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis - Partnership of Power

Duration of partnership: 17 years

25 volunteers

Impacts 527 students

Activities: Partnership supports campus clean-up and beautification day, Book Buddy Day, Field Day. Student artwork displayed in visual arts exhibition/contest at law office, with awards presented to winning artwork. WLW&S recognizes "Teacher of the Year" with spa gift. Students with highest grade average awarded. Collaboration with school on community service projects, such as emergency packets for the Red Cross, Boys & Girls Clubs, JPS homeless students. Donations for canned goods drives and support of "Boxtops for Education." Monetary donations of up to \$10,000 annually for upgrades, special needs.

Results: Book Buddies average 20 hours' reading, discussion time with students. APAC had 38 Scholastic Winners, with over 60% of applicants recognized. APAC remains one of highest-performing schools in the district, maintaining STAR status 2 consecutive years.

Thames Elementary (Hattiesburg) and The Association for the Rights of Citizens with Disabilities (The Arc of Forrest County)

Duration of partnership: 1 year

25 volunteers

Impacts 255 students

Activities: Students rewarded for MCT2 and MAAECF scores with field trip to The Arc multi-purpose and recreational building for movie time, game centers and team games. Community volunteers helped organize centers and clean-up during three-day event, which culminated in a picnic on the grounds. Students also rewarded with visit to the center for United Way fundraising activities. Teachers use facility for community-based training for students with disabilities.

Results: Total of 17 community-based trips made to The Arc by students with disabilities. Expanded services to individuals with disabilities, encouraged community recreation, increased community involvement and awareness, increased participation and acceptance of children with and without disabilities in an inclusive setting.

Watkins Elementary Playground Project (Jackson) – Southern Farm Bureau, Eaton, Junior League of Greater Jackson, Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, Home Depot, Entergy and others

Duration of partnerships: 25 years (Southern Farm Bureau)

27 volunteers

Impacts 375+ students

Activities: Project sponsored by Watkins Elementary PTA; school adopter Southern Farm Bureau provides all promotional materials. Phase II was built in July 2010 with donations from Eaton, Entergy, Home Depot and others. Parents, students, faculty and volunteers from Eaton, Entergy and JA Dawson supported effort. Junior League of Jackson donated \$5,000 to jumpstart Phase III followed by additional \$5,000 from Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, \$2,500 from Home Depot and \$1,000 from Entergy. Additional sponsors followed. Phase III is projected to be completed by 2011 school year and will include installation of shade canopy, new basketball goals, swing set for pre-K and kindergarten and resurfacing blacktop areas. Other activities provided by Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi include Fuel Up to Play Challenge, taste test events, Breakfast with a Hero, Milk Mustache Day. Executive Women International hosted annual Reading Rally at Watkins to promote literacy, healthy lifestyles. Most recently Watkins received a \$1,000 grant from Mississippi Recycling Coalition.

Results: Over \$70,000 raised to-date. Partnerships continue to develop for Phase II and III. Increased PTA involvement and activity. Watkins now ranked a Top 10 JPS Elementary School and top 20% statewide out of 820 schools ranked by MDE. One of few public schools in state to receive GreatSchools Rating of 8 out of 10. Recipient of 2010 Allstate Helping Hands Outstanding Partnership Award. Helped launch recycling pilot program.

Woodley Elementary (Hattiesburg) and Parkway Heights United Methodist Church

Duration of partnership: 5 years

75+ volunteers

Impacts 386 students

Activities: Partnership supports Fall Carnival, Field Day, science fairs, teacher appreciation events, campus beautification. Donates uniforms, clothing, eyeglasses and supplies for teachers and students. Sponsors three book distributions annually as part of DREAM's Reading is Fundamental program. Provides volunteers to assist with reading curriculum in K-2 classes. Launched "Beyond the Lunch Table" backpack food program.

Results: Daily presence of church volunteers in school as math, reading tutors. "Beyond the Lunch Table" sparking interest from other churches and community groups. Positive impact on physical, emotional and financial well-being of students.

2011 Governor's Honor Roll Award: BankPlus

BankPlus participates in adopt-a-school programs in each of the Mississippi communities it serves and provides donations and volunteer support for a variety of school functions and activities.

The following is a sampling of BankPlus partnership activities:

- Twice a year, BankPlus employees present “Teach Children to Save” and “Get Smart about Credit” programs in schools.
- Offers CreditPlus workshops for parents and school employees.
- Awards savings bonds quarterly at many schools based on honor roll and other outstanding student achievements.
- Employees participate as science fair, reading fair and talent show judges.
- Employees invited as guest speakers to discuss business topics with students.
- BankPlus supports annual reality fairs. We provide bags, calculators, pens, checkbooks, and registers for each student. Volunteers engage students in activities that help them learn how to make deposits, balance checkbooks and understand concepts about budgeting and credit.
- BankPlus provides lunch for new faculty orientations. In addition, employees attend the first faculty breakfast in the fall and enjoy renewing friendships with teachers and staff from previous years.
- Title sponsor for many PTO fundraisers across the state.
- Sponsors “Welcome Back to School” luncheons for teachers and staff.
- Sponsors the Mississippi Stock Market competition.
- Donated funds to help the GMS Community Problem Solving Team travel to the University of Wisconsin to participate in an international conference.
- Teaches financial classes for students.
- Participates in career- and college-day programs.
- Provides Thanksgiving, Christmas and end-of-year lunches for teachers.
- Places ads in yearbooks, sponsors fall sports calendars and golf tournaments.
- Makes donations to bands, choirs and libraries.
- Provides lunch during parent/teacher conferences.
- Provides breakfast for faculty on opening day of school.
- Supports annual canned food drives.
- Invites students to display their artwork at BankPlus offices.
- Invites high-school seniors to shadow Bankplus employees for a day.
- Sponsors educational field trips.
- Sponsors a cadet's admission to Junior Reserve Officer Training Course.
- Provided funds to support JPS high school arts show in Fondren.
- Supports and provides funds for art, math, language arts and reading programs
- Sponsors parenting orientation programs.
- Provide awards for school valedictorians and salutatorians.

And much more!