

STATE-WIDE IMPACT

BUILDING THE PREMIERE EXPERIENCE for
TEACHER RECRUITMENT
IN THE SOUTHEAST

THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

STARKVILLE OKTIBBEHA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Serving all 6th-7th grade students in the Starkville Oktibbeha School District

Housing up to 1000 students in a 128,000 square foot collaborative learning facility

Providing classroom, observation and research space for teacher training

Maximizing hands-on learning opportunities with easy access to academic and cultural resources on the Mississippi State University campus

An investment in solving Mississippi's critical teacher shortage...

How do we prepare the next generation of Mississippi's workforce to compete in a 21st century marketplace? It begins with recruiting and preparing teachers in a 21st century incubator of innovative education practices. In 2015, Mississippi State University partnered with Starkville Oktibbeha School District, and set out to build the premiere experience for teacher training in the Southeast – **a cornerstone piece in Mississippi's ability to recruit and retain the next generation of excellent teachers.**

With state-of-the-art research, observation, and classroom facilities, The Partnership School will provide educators and teachers in training with the opportunity to innovate, test, and shape real-world best practices.

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STARKVILLE
OKTIBBEHA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

STATUS REPORT

THE PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

SUCCESSSES:

A Proven Return on Investment

Since 2015, the **Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District** has set a groundbreaking example for how consolidation can be more than just downsizing paperwork and meeting test-score requirements. SOCSO has become a case study for how community-centered consolidation can create **greater opportunities** and **positive outcomes** for students.

10 NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS since 2015

Highest **GRADUATION RATE** to date

All schools rated **C or higher**

C rating at Armstrong Middle School for the **first time in 12 YEARS**

30+ POINT INCREASE in state accountability ratings



Unprecedented Opportunities

Through the investment of the Mississippi Legislature, a growing partnership with Mississippi State University, and increased community buy-in, SOCSO is providing students with unprecedented learning opportunities. For the first time in a century, **EVERY CHILD** in Oktibbeha County has access to more AP courses, art, music, drama, technology, and award-winning athletics.

Completing the **The Partnership School** is the next step.

CHALLENGES:

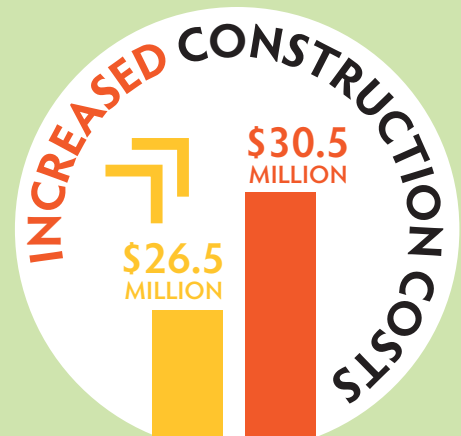
The Costs of Consolidation

Ensuring a successful SOCSO consolidation—one resulting in increased student opportunities AND increased enrollment—has also meant **overcoming unexpected financial obstacles**, absorbing resources available for completion of The Partnership School.

SOCSO spent nearly **\$1 million to improve Oktibbeha County facilities** that were later forced to close to meet requirements for racial balance by the US Department of Justice.

Increased enrollment is a mark of a successful consolidation, but it has also required the re-configuration of some schools, along with the financial burden of subsequent **facility maintenance needs**.

Nationwide natural disasters along with increased safety requirements have caused the **cost of building materials to dramatically increase**, driving the cost of The Partnership School construction from \$26.5 million to \$30.5 million.



OPENING 2020

Re-imagining middle school with **innovative practices** and **collaborative learning spaces** that will ignite the spark of excellence for middle school students across Oktibbeha County.

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