

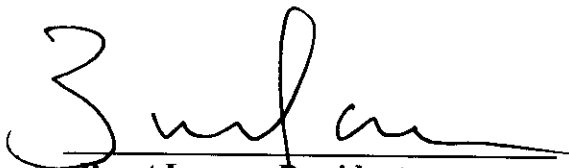
ORDER: SPREAD ON THE MINUTES FALL PROGRESS REPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD READING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

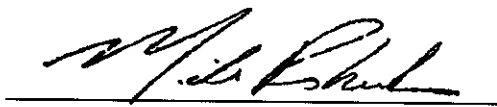
Motion was made by Scott Allen, duly seconded by Tim Gordon, to spread on the minutes Fall Progress Report for Early Childhood Reading and Development program.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Supervisor Brent Larson, voted yes
Supervisor John Morgan, voted yes
Supervisor Tim Gordon, voted yes
Supervisor Scott Allen, voted yes
Supervisor Greg Bynum, voted yes

After the vote, President Larson, declared the motion carried, this the 1st day of December, 2025.


Brent Larson, President
Board of Supervisors


Mike Roberts, Chancery Clerk

**Early Childhood and Reading Development Partnership with
Oxford School District-Lafayette County School District-City of Oxford-Lafayette County
Progress Report**

August 2025 - October 2025

Prepared by: Cara Buffington, Director of Early Childhood and Reading Development

A. PROJECT SUMMARY

The community partnership will build an Early Childhood and Reading Development Program in the Lafayette County and Oxford Community dedicated to ensuring that all children can read proficiently by the end of third grade. The Early Childhood and Reading Development Program will build and strengthen community partnerships in the areas of school readiness, school attendance, out of school learning opportunities, and children's health and wellness.

B. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Collaboration Partners for the Month:

United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County	LOU Reads
Oxford School District (OSD)	Lafayette County School District (LCSD)
Mary Cathey Head Start (MCHS)	Willie Price Lab School (WPLS)
MS Department of Education (MDE)	MS Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (MSCGLR)
Lions Club of North Mississippi	Center of Excellence in Literacy Instruction (CELI)
Northwest Community College (NWCC)	Second Chance, Inc.

Activities/Events:

Brigance and MKAS² Trainings and Fall Assessments were given in all the LOU ELC sites
Hearing, Vision, Speech and Language Screenings were given in all the LOU ELC sites
Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Training at Oxford Early Childhood Center (August 1)
Meeting with Lafayette Pre-K Teachers (August 7)
Meeting with Center Of Excellence in Literacy Instruction (August 11)
OECC Parent Night (August 14)
MS Campaign for Grade Level Reading State Meeting in Jackson (August 19)
Meeting with MDE Collaborative Lead (August 28)
Distributed free "Back to School" books for each Pre-K and Kindergarten student
Replenished books in L.O.U. Little Free Libraries
Contacted LOU ELC PreK Classroom family members to recruit for the Adult Education and Workforce Training Program with Second Chance, Inc. and Northwest Community College.

Collaboration Partners for the Month:

United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County	LOU Reads
Oxford School District (OSD)	Lafayette County School District (LCSD)
Mary Cathey Head Start (MCHS)	Willie Price Lab School (WPLS)
MS Department of Education (MDE)	MS Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (MSCGLR)
Second Chance, Inc.	Northwest Community College
The Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction (CELI)	Lovepacks
Oxford Housing Authority	MDE, Office of Compulsory School Attendance

Activities/Events:

- Meeting with LOU ELC Lead Partners (Sept. 2)
- EL Adult English Classes with Lynndy Hurdle begin (Sept. 3)
- Meeting with EL Tutors at OECC (Sept. 4)
- Budget Meeting with Narita Edwards (Sept. 5)
- EL tutoring begins at OECC (Sept. 8)
- "Leading Young Minds" Training at Insight Park (Sept. 9)
- LOU ELC Meeting with all sites (Sept. 10)
- Brigance Training with MDE (virtual, Sept. 15)
- Meeting with LES Teacher Assistants (Sept. 18)
- EL Parent Night at Della (Sept. 18)
- Deliver books to OMS for Lovepacks (Sept. 24)
- Mississippi Beginnings Curriculum Training (Sept. 24)
- Work session with CELI for Community Solutions Action Plan (Sept. 25)
- Breakfast at the Bus Stop at CB Webb (Sept. 26)
- Contacted LOU ELC PreK Classroom family members to recruit for the Adult Education and Workforce Training Program with Second Chance, Inc. and Northwest Community College.
- Replenished books in L.O.U. Little Free Libraries



Collaboration Partners for the Month:

United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County	LOU Reads
Oxford School District (OSD)	Lafayette County School District (LCSD)
Mary Cathey Head Start (MCHS)	Willie Price Lab School (WPLS)
MS Department of Education (MDE)	Oxford YMCA
2nd Chance Mississippi	Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction (CELI)
Lafayette County Literacy Council	The Oxford Lafayette County Public Library
Oxford Housing Authority	UM Museum

Activities/Events:

United Way of Oxford and Lafayette County Campaign Kick-Off Luncheon (October 1)

Book Giveaway for YMCA Fall Camp (October 10)

Campaign for Grade Level Reading Webinar (October 14)

LOU ELC Lead Partner Meeting (October 14)

Mary Cathey Head Start Field Trip to Chadwick Farms (October 17)

Movie Night with UM Museum (October 18)

LOU ELC PLC (October 22)

Deliver books to be included in Lovepacks (October 22)

L.O.U. Coalition Meeting (October 23)

Family Activity Day at UM Museum (October 25)

Literacy Bus Event: Halloween Spooktacular at the Lafayette County Multipurpose Arena (Oct. 30)

Pumpkin Day Center Activities at Oxford Early Childhood Center (October 31)

Replenished books in L.O.U. Little Free Libraries

C. PROGRAM GOALS FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD (November 2025 - January 2026)

Continued support of PreK classrooms in our Lafayette-Oxford-University Early Learning Collaborative (LOU ELC)- 24 classrooms

Mid-Year Progress Monitoring for MKAS

Form a partnership with the new Resource and Referral Center & Delta Health Alliance

Work with community partners to support families who have needs this winter (food, clothing, etc.)

Continue to partner with CELI and seek out "hubs" for parent trainings

Promote to students, parents, and educators about the 2026 MS Reads One Book Project

Partner with community based providers to enhance their capacity to support children's early learning and school success

Provide high dose tutoring through Mission Acceleration at multiple sites

Continue to partner with school attendance officers in Oxford and Lafayette to decrease chronic absenteeism

Promote health screenings

Continue to promote efforts of LOU Reads through our website and social media

Complete NIEER Data for the LOU ELC

Promote PreK Tax Credit for the LOU ELC (Section F)

D. Upcoming Events

November 19 - Deliver books for "Lovepacks"

December 11 - Community Connections meeting at the Chamber

January 8 - LOU Reads Winter Coalition Meeting: 11:30 - 1:00

NOTE: For up-to-date info and pics, follow LOU Reads on Facebook and Instagram - @loureads38655

E. MKAS² PreK Results for Fall 2025

The fall benchmark score for Pre-K students is 644.

The winter benchmark score for Pre-K students is 665.

In the spring, students in the LOU ELC are expected to have a minimum scale score of 686.

Pre-K students with a score of 686 or higher at the end of the school year are considered "ready for kindergarten".

Enrollment of the LOU ELC at the time of the beginning of the year assessment was 384 students.



LOU ELC	46%	639
Oxford	47%	636
Lafayette	44%	638
Mary Cathey	31%	617
Willie Price	62%	664

STATE TAX CREDIT

INVESTING IN PRE-K

► THE STATE TAX CREDIT

Individuals or corporations who make a contribution to support the local matching fund of an approved early learning collaborative may be eligible to receive a state tax credit for the donated amount up to \$1,000,000. The Mississippi Department of Revenue can approve 1:1 tax credits up to the amount the legislature appropriates to the Early Learning Collaborative Act each year. For 2024, the legislature appropriated \$24 million; therefore, the sum of the donations eligible for the tax credit may not exceed \$24 million. If you make a donation after the cap has been reached, you will not be eligible to receive the tax credit.



*Support the L.O.U.
Early Learning Collaborative*

SECURING THE TAX CREDIT

To donate to a collaborative and receive the state tax credit, follow these steps:

- 1 Contact the Lead Partner for the collaborative to which you wish to donate. A list of all the approved early learning collaboratives is found below, along with contact information for the person responsible for collecting donations.
- 2 The Mississippi Department of Education tracks qualifying donations towards the cap. They will share this information with all the lead partners of the collaboratives. When contacting the lead partner, verify that the cap has not been reached.
- 3 After you make a donation, the Mississippi Department of Education will issue you a donation certificate documenting that you have contributed to the local matching funds of an approved collaborative.
- 4 Indicate your donation when you file your state taxes. Use form 80-401, which can be found on the Department of Revenue's website.

**Oxford Early Childhood Center
Lafayette Elementary School
Willie Price Lab School
Mary Cathey Head Start**

To make your donation, contact the L.O.U. Early Learning Collaborative Coordinator, Cara Buffington at cbbuffington@oxfordsd.org or 662.234.3541