



*March 2024*

# Postsecondary Enrollment and Employment Outcomes of Mississippi Public School Early Graduates



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING  
& ANALYSIS RESEARCH CENTER

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## ABOUT MISSISSIPPI'S SLDS

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Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is one of the most comprehensive systems in the country and includes administrative records from more than 25 education, workforce, and human service agencies in the state. The SLDS allows for the alignment of multiple sources of de-identified administrative data over time to evaluate educational or workforce strategies in terms of real outcomes, such as entrance into employment, wages, and skill gains.

## ABOUT NSPARC

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NSPARC is a university research center at Mississippi State University and is a trusted and reliable source for high-quality research and analysis. We specialize in use-inspired research, data analytics, and software architecture and development. Our research emphasizes workforce and economic development, but the diversity of expertise on our team means we cover a broad range of topics in education, economics, health, human services, and corrections.

Unique experience with administrative records and longitudinal data systems, matched with our ability to apply the latest methodological and machine learning approaches allows us to draw meaningful insights from data to address challenges faced by policymakers, employers, economic developers, and state agencies.

For more information, contact NSPARC at [nsparc@nsparc.msstate.edu](mailto:nsparc@nsparc.msstate.edu) or 662-325-9242.

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## OVERVIEW

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AccelerateMS has requested summary information on the postsecondary enrollment and employment outcomes of Mississippi public school early graduates from academic year (AY) 2018-2019 to AY 2022-2023.

1. The number of Mississippi public school early graduates.
2. The number and percent of Mississippi public school early graduates who enrolled in a community college or university within one year of graduation.
3. The number and percent of Mississippi public school early graduates who did not enter a postsecondary institution within one year of graduation and were employed by a Mississippi employer with one year of graduation. For those employed, provide their median annualized earnings.

## METHODOLOGY

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### DATA

Data for this study came from Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), which includes administrative records from more than 25 state agencies. Data from the following SLDS data contributors were used:

**Mississippi Department of Education** – Data from Mississippi's public schools are contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). These data include information on enrollment, school, grade, course, and graduation.

**Mississippi Community Colleges** – Data on community college graduates are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's 15 community colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB). These data include information on enrollment, county of residence, academic major, and graduation.

**Mississippi Public Universities** – Data on 4-year public university graduates are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's eight public universities and the Institutions for Higher Learning (IHL). These data include information on enrollment, county of residence, academic major, and graduation.

**Mississippi Department of Employment Security** – Employer wage records are contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). Employer wage

records are collected from Mississippi employers that participate in the state’s covered employment system. Data fields include information on quarterly earnings, company of employment, industry of employment, and county location of employer.

## INDICATORS

**Mississippi Public School Early Graduates** – The number of Mississippi public school students who graduated early between AY2018-2019 and AY2022-2023.

An early graduate is defined as student in their Junior year or Senior year that graduated prior to May of their Senior year. Student grade and semester of graduation are used to categorize early graduates into Junior year Fall or Spring semesters, Senior year Fall semester, and Senior year Spring semester.

**Postsecondary Enrollment** - The number of Mississippi public school early graduates who enrolled in a postsecondary institution (i.e., any 2-year or 4-year public or private institution inside or outside of Mississippi) within one year of high school graduation.

Postsecondary enrollment status was identified using National Student Clearinghouse data, administrative records from Mississippi’s community colleges, and administrative records from Mississippi’s public universities. To allow for a one-year observation period after graduation, this measure is provided for early graduates between AY2018-2019 and AY2021-2022.

**Employment**– The number of Mississippi public school early graduates who did not enroll in a postsecondary institution (i.e., any 2-year or 4-year public or private institution inside or outside of Mississippi) within one year of high school graduation and were employed by a covered Mississippi employer within one year of high school graduation. To allow for a one-year observation period after graduation, this measure is provided for early graduates between AY2018-2019 and AY2021-2022.

**Median Annualized Earnings** - The median annualized earnings of early graduates employed in Mississippi within one year of high school graduation.

## DATA SUPPRESSION

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In accordance with SLDS Rules and Regulations, numeric values less than 10 are suppressed along with the accompanying percentages. These suppressed values are replaced with the “<10” symbol, and the accompanying percent is replaced with the “---” symbol. Additionally, information calculated using MDE data is suppressed if the percentage is either less than 5% or greater than 95%. Suppressed values are replaced with the “<5.00” and “>95.00” symbols, respectively, and the accompanying numeric values are replaced with the “---” symbol.

## RESULTS

TABLE 1. MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY GRADUATES

Grade and Semester	Number of Early Graduates
<b>AY2018-2019</b>	
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	10
Senior year, Fall semester	295
Senior year, Spring semester	391
<b>AY2019-2020</b>	
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	15
Senior year, Fall semester	397
Senior year, Spring semester	330
<b>AY2020-2021</b>	
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	13
Senior year, Fall semester	285
Senior year, Spring semester	731
<b>AY2021-2022</b>	
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	18
Senior year, Fall semester	280
Senior year, Spring semester	918
<b>AY2022-2023</b>	
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	23
Senior year, Fall semester	572
Senior year, Spring semester	995
<b>Annual Average</b>	
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	16
Senior year, Fall semester	366
Senior year, Spring semester	673



TABLE 2. POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OF MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY GRADUATES

Grade and Semester	Number of Early Graduates	Entered MS Community College		Entered MS Public University		Entered MS Private College/University or Out-of-State College/University	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>AY2018-2019</b>							
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	10	<10	---	<10	---	<10	---
Senior year, Fall semester	295	123	41.7	28	9.5	<10	---
Senior year, Spring semester	391	173	44.2	27	6.9	21	5.4
<b>AY2019-2020</b>							
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	15	<10	---	<10	---	<10	---
Senior year, Fall semester	397	132	33.2	24	6.0	<10	---
Senior year, Spring semester	330	134	40.6	23	7.0	17	5.2
<b>AY2020-2021</b>							
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	13	<10	---	<10	---	<10	---
Senior year, Fall semester	285	119	41.8	32	11.2	<10	---
Senior year, Spring semester	731	262	35.8	50	6.8	37	5.1
<b>AY2021-2022</b>							
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	18	<10	---	<10	---	<10	---
Senior year, Fall semester	280	86	30.7	19	6.8	<10	---
Senior year, Spring semester	918	289	31.5	44	4.8	33	3.6
<b>Annual Average</b>							
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	14	<10	---	<10	---	<10	---
Senior year, Fall semester	314	115	36.6	26	8.2	<10	---
Senior year, Spring semester	593	215	36.2	36	6.1	27	4.6



TABLE 3. EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES OF MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOL EARLY GRADUATES

Grade and Semester	Number of Early Graduates Not Enrolled in Postsecondary	Employed within One Year		
		N	%	Median Annualized Earnings
<b>AY2018-2019</b>				
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	<10	<10	---	---
Senior year, Fall semester	136	103	75.7	\$10,237
Senior year, Spring semester	170	121	71.2	\$13,532
<b>AY2019-2020</b>				
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	11	<10	---	---
Senior year, Fall semester	234	166	70.9	\$9,729
Senior year, Spring semester	156	110	70.5	\$9,896
<b>AY2020-2021</b>				
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	10	<10	---	---
Senior year, Fall semester	126	87	69.0	\$12,814
Senior year, Spring semester	382	289	75.7	\$13,005
<b>AY2021-2022</b>				
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	17	<10	---	---
Senior year, Fall semester	169	127	75.1	\$13,078
Senior year, Spring semester	552	387	70.1	\$11,973
<b>Annual Average</b>				
Junior year, Fall or Spring semesters	11	<10	---	---
Senior year, Fall semester	166	121	72.6	\$11,622
Senior year, Spring semester	315	227	72.0	\$12,258

