MISSISSIPPI WORKS: BUILT TO PREPARE, CONNECT, AND SUSTAIN 
A HIGH-QUALITY WORKFORCE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

**PREPARE**

HIGH-PERFORMANCE WORKFORCE

Education is preparation. Whether entering the job market for the first time, filling skills gaps for a career change, or seeking new credentials for new opportunities, Mississippi’s workforce will be prepared at every education level for occupations with higher earning power.

**CONNECT**

WORKFORCE ON DEMAND

The Workforce on Demand model gives Mississippi businesses a unique advantage by identifying the right labor pool, connecting the pool with jobs, and verifying skills to ensure the right person for the right job is found at the right time.

**SUSTAIN**

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

By aligning workforce strategies, such as apprenticeships, with hiring cycles, Mississippi businesses can capitalize on a precision workforce. This creates a pipeline that channels the state’s high-performance workforce into occupations that fulfill dynamic industry needs.
Mississippi’s Labor Force is Skilled and Ready to Work

**PREPARE**

**EDUCATION**
- Early Childhood Academies
- K-12
- Community Colleges
- Universities
- Complete to Compete
- MS Scholars
- MS Tech Masters
- Dropout Prevention

**TRAINING**
- MS Apprenticeship Program
- MDE Certification Processes
- MS Training Academies
- WET Training Fund
- WIOA/Smart Start
- and Career Pathways
- MS Works Training Fund

**AWARENESS**
- Job Scout
- Get on the Grid
- Pathways to Possibilities

**SUPPORT**
- Families First
- Childcare Voucher System
- Rehabilitation Services
- MS Department of Human Services

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**CONNECT**

- MS Development Authority
- MS Department of Employment Security
- Local Economic Developers
- Community College Board
- MS Works App
- MS Grad Jobs
- MS Tech Jobs

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**SUSTAIN**

- MS Manufacturers Association
- MS Hospital Association
- North MS Industrial Development Association
- MS Concrete Association
- MS Retail and Grocers Association
- MS Outdoor Industry Association
- MS Automotive Association

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**MISSISSIPPI ECONOMY SCORECARD**

**Unemployment Rate**
- 4.7%

**Employment**
- 1,221,000

**Good Jobs**
- 223,000

**Income Tax**
- $1.8 billion

**Sales Tax**
- $2.1 billion

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Mississippi’s Definition of Work-Based Learning:

“Work-based learning provides students with authentic work experiences where they apply and develop employability and technical skills that promote success in careers and post-secondary education. Work-Based Learning activities culminate in an assessment and recognition of acquired knowledge and skills.”
Mississippi’s Vision for WBL

To scale and enhance high-quality WBL experiences in MS:
• Identify MS’s targeted WF needs;
• Create sustainable pathways for MS’s high-demand industries; and
• Ensure alignment of PK-16 education, government, community, and business resources toward priority employer needs.
Mississippi’s WBL Accomplishments

• Met with multiple stakeholders to define WBL and start developing a plan for expansion of WBL

• Working closely to identify challenges, barriers, and opportunities to expand WBL among our many stakeholders

• Governor Bryant continues to support workforce development throughout MS, including WBL

• Held a Governor’s Workforce Summit in January
Governor’s Workforce Summit

• Summit Goal – highlight workforce solutions for leaders in the business community

• Speaker Panels focusing on Preparing, Connecting, and Sustaining the workforce in Mississippi including topics such as Education and Workforce Development

• Local Workforce Development Area Booths with WIOA Core Partner Agencies

• Mississippi Works job matching system available for registration and job listings
Next Steps

• Regional Workforce Summits in each Local Workforce Development Area
• Revise the Secondary Career Experience Definition and Program Guide to reflect changes in Perkins V and WIOIA