

Grantee Name: Mississippi State University

Project Name: Project LEAP: Learning and Educating through Alternative Programs

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Partner Districts/LEAs: Seven city districts- Clarksdale Public School District, Cleveland Public School District, Columbia Public School District, Hattiesburg Public School District, Leland Public School District, Newton City Public School District, Picayune Public School District
Rural districts - Carroll County School District, Clay County School District, Coahoma County School District, East Tallahatchie School District, Grenada Public School District School, Hollandale Public School District, Holmes County School District, Humphreys County School District, Kemper County School District, Leake County School District, Lee County School District, Louisville (Winston County) Public School District, Mound Bayou Public School District, Natchez-Adams Public School District, North Panola Public School District, Oktibbeha County School District, Pearl River County Public School District, Simpson County School District, South Delta School District, South Pike School District, Wayne County Public School District, West Point Public School District, West Tallahatchie Public School District

Learning and Educating through Alternative Programs (LEAP) is a Masters of Arts in Teaching in Secondary Education Scholarship Program designed to attract highly qualified mid-career professionals and recent college graduates to fill the secondary teacher shortage in Mississippi. The project, which is a collaborative effort between Mississippi State University's Meridian Campus and the main campus in Starkville will, (1) launch a statewide search for individuals eligible to participate in an alternative route program; (2) certify participants in secondary education; (3) assist participants through a school-wide first year teacher mentoring program; and (4) reduce the severe teacher shortage identified across the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) along with thirty school districts in the state have partnered with MSU and MSU-Meridian to promote this project. Project LEAP participants will complete the program's coursework and field experience requirements in four semesters. The project will recruit 175 participants over the life of the grant (year 1: 35, Yr 2: 35, Yr 3: 35, Yr 4: 35, Yr 5: 35).