Warrior Excelerators
Catch Them Early and Catch Them UP
Vision: Cultivating Warriors of Distinction

Mission: The mission of Pontotoc City School District is to cultivate a spirit of pride, growth and service to prepare our students to flourish as leaders in our community and in the competitive world.
PCSD Goals

Goal #1
In order to prepare our students for success in life, Pontotoc City School District will increase student achievement in all areas. Our students will be resilient and competitive in academic pursuits, athletic skills, extra-curricular activities, and social interactions.
Goal #2
Pontotoc City School District will build, manage, and support our students, employees, and facilities to promote emotionally and physically safe, orderly, and positive school cultures.
Goal #3

In order to provide students with a high-quality, world-class educational experience, Pontotoc City School District will build and maintain a highly-qualified, stable, world-class workforce.
Goal #4
Pontotoc City School District will be responsible stewards of all our financial resources. The district will maintain and grow a sound financial fund balance and reserve fund.
PCSD Goals

Goal #5

Because the district is looking into the future, Pontotoc City School District will continuously and aggressively seek opportunities for growth. By doing so, the district will be able to offer varied and extensive educational advantages to all our Warriors.
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WHY?

- It is not acceptable for a student, any student, to fall through the cracks.
- Our students are the future of our community. We want them to be a positive resource.
- Our community almost demanded it.
- In Mississippi, graduation rate counts double in our accountability model.
All kids are gifted; some just open their packages earlier than others.

Michael Carr
WHO?

- Students 1 to 2 years behind
- Principal recommendation
- Regardless of
  - ELL
  - SPED
  - Discipline
  - Attendance
- Students who were READY to “open their packages”
READY or NOT?

- Ready
  - Principal recommendation
  - Teacher conversations
  - Grades
  - Attendance
  - Willingness
  - Dedication
  - Family Buy-in

- Not
  - Discipline
  - Work ethic
  - Lack of Commitment
  - Lack of Buy-in
WHEN?

- Identify at the end of 6th grade
- Begin tracking in 7th grade
- Start intentional scheduling in 8th grade
- Promote mid-year in 9th grade
- Add back extracurricular activities in high school
- Have a real senior year with all senior privileges
- Graduate with cohort or up to one year behind cohort
  - Winter graduation (1 semester behind)
  - Spring graduation (1 year behind)
- Winter graduation (1 semester behind)
- Spring graduation (1 year behind)
WHERE?

- **Blended learning environment**
  - In general education classes with peers
    - Lunch
    - Some credit-bearing classes (STEM)
    - All state-tested classes
  - In Alternative school (in a separate classroom)
    - Some credit bearing classes
      - English I
      - History
      - Health
      - Electives
  - No extracurricular activities (sports, band, etc.) for one semester
HOW?

- Create a cohort
- No extra $$$$$
- No extra people
- Creativity
- Thinking outside the box (Box? What box?)
- Plan out their entire high school course work early with their input
- Priority scheduling
- Curriculum/Accreditation knowledge and experience in the design
WHY NOT?

- Friction
- Fairness
- Framework
- Freaking-out
WHAT NOW?

- **Fighting Chance**
  - All students passing all classes
  - No discipline issues
  - IEP students are more successful than before
  - Cohort
  - Teacher relationship
  - Attendance
  - Extracurricular participation
  - Relevance
  - Community Support
  - Expansion to other at-risk groups