

# ♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

DeSoto County Schools

Kindergarten Handbook  
2019-2020



DeSoto County Schools defines a high-quality kindergarten program as providing a safe, nurturing environment for a community of learners that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of young students while responding to the needs of families.

**DeSoto County Kindergarten Goals:**

- ensure a safe, secure, orderly environment for all
- develop a love of learning
- increase their academic growth
- expand their understanding of the world, people, experiences, and ideas
- increase skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking
- increase skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration
- increase their skills involved in physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills
- develop cooperative trusting learning communities

**Learning Principles:**

The following principles are required in the learning environment and curriculum in the classroom:

1. Skills and concepts specific to development domains developed by the Mississippi Department of Education are foundational to all instruction.
  - a. English Language Arts
  - b. Mathematics
  - c. Social Studies
  - d. Science
  - e. Social and Emotional Development
  - f. Physical Development
  - g. The arts
2. Learning activities that acknowledge children's individual rates of development.
3. Children are in a inclusive learning environment that embraces learning diversity.
4. Children use their senses in the instructional process (seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling)
5. Active engagement (exploring, playing, manipulating, and problem solving) is the primary strategy for delivering instruction.

6. Children are taught using a combination of instructional strategies, which includes active engagement in integrated learning centers, speaking and listening, participating in large and small group, and individual instructional settings.
7. Attitudes and examples from teachers from teachers and in lesson content taught reflect a positive problem solving approach. Therefore, attention should be given to instructional methods, emotional content, environment, peer-to-peer interaction, and educator-child interaction.
8. Children have experiences that are sensitive to the value of play, for it is through play that children create their own meaning and learning.

Children need opportunities to engage in application of the principles being introduced through the curriculum. Therefore, one of the requirements for kindergarten classrooms is that the majority of the instructional delivery be organized around a variety of integrated learning centers with responsive interactions among children, their peers, and adults. These experiences provide opportunities for children to acquire skills and concepts through hands-on engaged learning while the teacher is facilitating appropriate language development through meaningful conversations with others.

### **Mississippi K-3 Assessment Support System: MKAS**

Students are assessed on reading foundational skills such as; print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, fluency, and language use.

Students will also be assessed on counting and cardinality, operations and algebraic thinking, and measurement and data.

The pre-test is administered in the fall and the post-test is given in spring.

### **NWEA MAP**

Map Growth is a computer adaptive test created by NWEA that K-5 students take two to three times per school year. The results provide teachers with information to help them deliver appropriate content for each student and determine each student's academic growth over time.

<https://www.nwea.org/>

### **Literacy-Based Promotion Act**

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act was enacted to improve the reading skills of Kindergarten through Third grade students enrolled in the public schools so that every student completing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is able to read at or above grade level.

In accordance with this law, all third grade students are required to take a test at the end of the school year to determine promotion to the fourth grade. A third grade student must score at a level 3 or higher on the reading portion of the MAAP to qualify for promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. If your child does not pass this test, you will be informed in writing that your child will not be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade unless he/she qualifies for an exemption.

<https://www.mdek12.org/>

### **Kindergarten Standards-Based Report Card Scale**

S= Satisfactory

N= Needs Improvement

U- Unsatisfactory

Kindergarten students must master 70% of the Mathematics standards and 70% of the Language Arts standards.

<http://www.desotocountyschools.org/>