



Mississippi Association
of Educators

775 North State Street | Jackson, MS 39202 | Phone: (601) 354-4463

Erica Jones
President

Darein Spann
Vice President

Suzanne Smith
Secretary-Treasurer

Antonio Castanon Luna
Executive Director

March 24, 2023

MAE Educator Stories: Fully Fund Our Schools

1. As an educator, I am acutely aware of the challenges that my students face on a daily basis. Limited resources and overcrowded classrooms can make it difficult for them to receive the individualized attention they need to succeed. As such, additional funding would be a game-changer for my students, classroom, and school. With increased funding, we could reduce class sizes and provide more individualized instruction, tailored to each student's unique needs. Our school could also hire more staff, including interventionists, to support struggling students and provide them with the necessary resources to thrive. We could also invest in newer technology and instructional materials, which would better engage my students and enhance their learning experiences.
2. It means that we can get the funding to better serve our students. They are the reason we do this. Our students deserve the right to a quality education. This needs to be done. We are tired of 'making do' when others have the support to thrive.
3. More funding would allow for a fully staffed school. We would be able to have our special activity classes for our students. Also classes would not be over crowded with no assistants.
4. Better education for the students all around. Making sure the ac/heat works. Making sure the schools have running water to drink and for washing hands and flushing toilets.



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5. As a parent and educator, I am deeply invested in providing my 2nd-grade students with the best possible education. Despite our small class size of 18 students, many of whom come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, our resources are limited. However, with additional funding, we could create better opportunities for our students, including field trips, cultural experiences, and a wholistic connection to make instruction come to life. Moreover, with increased funding, we could form partnerships with outside speakers who can share their expertise with our students, providing them with real-world insights and experiences. Currently, our reliance on teacher pay teachers limits our ability to purchase necessary materials and interventions, such as lesson plans and science resources. With additional funds, we could invest in these materials and ensure that our students receive a well-rounded education that meets their individual needs. For instance, we could purchase history books and other resources which would allow our students to engage with the curriculum in a more meaningful way.
6. I need the funds to provide the best and most updated education to my students. Students deserve the best possible education.
7. It would mean a great deal to schools, students, classrooms, and teachers to be fully funded. We all need the resources to be readily available to students, teachers, and parents. Every child deserves the best chance in life and education plays one of the most important aspects in a child's life.



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8. As an educator in a Pre-K classroom, I have seen firsthand the impact that limited funding can have on our students' success. In the past, our class size has exceeded 20 students. With additional funding, we could help reduce class size to ensure our children receive individualized instruction. Another challenge in the classroom is that our technology is outdated. While our students are used to touch screens, we still use old-fashioned mice and PCs in the classroom. With increased funding, we could upgrade our technology to better engage our students and create a more dynamic learning environment. Additionally, we lack basic classroom materials like dry erase markers, sticky notes, and poster boards. With more funding, we could purchase these necessary materials and provide a more interactive and engaging learning environment for our students. Moreover, as educators, we often have to go out of pocket for materials. I have spent more than \$500 each year I have taught. This takes away from our ability to provide for our students and can lead to a lack of necessary supplies. With increased funding, we could invest in supplies such as putty, water-based paint/brushes, laminating materials, and regular school supplies such as tissues and paper towels. This would ensure that our students have the materials they need to succeed and that we, as educators, are not burdened with unnecessary expenses.
9. Our education system faces several challenges that we can work together to address. One area that could use improvement is teacher and administrator compensation. By fairly compensating educators, we can ensure that they have the resources they need to provide a safe and productive learning environment for students. In addition, ongoing professional development for both teachers and administrators is essential to keep our education system strong. Collaboration between educators from different areas is a great way to foster new ideas and approaches. We can also work to improve communication channels between parents, teachers, and counselors, allowing for greater collaboration and problem-solving. With everyone working together and thinking critically, we can create positive changes in our education system.



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10. More funding means manipulative for math and science, less money from educators' pockets for incentives, training in content areas, arts in elementary, physical education, and tutoring sessions.
11. Allocating more funding to education can have a significant impact on various aspects of the education system. One area where additional funding can be particularly beneficial is math and science education. With more resources available, schools can invest in manipulatives and other tools that can help students better understand these subjects. By providing students with hands-on learning opportunities, they can gain a deeper understanding of math and science concepts and develop critical thinking skills. In addition, increased funding can also free up resources for other important areas. For example, it can reduce the need for educators to use their own funds for incentives and professional development training. When teachers don't have to spend their own money on classroom supplies or training, they can better focus on their primary responsibilities of educating their students.
12. As a high school educator, more funding for our public schools would help establish more programs such as career readiness for students that are currently not funded. As for current programs for individualized and accelerated learning, we would benefit from additional funding for updated materials and technologies. This is especially true given that many of our students utilize online learning and our Chromebooks need updating and some a broken/disrepair. More funding would also help hire specialized teachers in areas that are currently understaffed such as business programs/classes, graphic and design, and commercial and sports marketing. Additionally, as we think about meeting the needs of kids from different economic backgrounds, additional funding would help us secure access to relevant tools, materials, and access to programs that would be of benefit to students facing challenges/hardships. One of those programs would be establishing a nutrition and dietary program so that our students learn at a young age how to properly manage their nutrition and their health.



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13. Heating and air conditioning needs, programs, services, and materials for all students, this includes general education students and students with special needs, providing students with special needs' requirements without putting cost first.
14. As a 4th grade math and science teacher, more funding would be beneficial to support my students to have more hands on activities in the classroom. These interactive activities and cooperative learning would help my students become better problem solvers and would encourage their curiosity to keep learning. Complementing the access to more hands on activities, updated technology would support our students success in the classroom by having them be exposed to interactive tools in technology. For example, state testing requires the manipulation of an interactive protractor on the computer; currently we can only provide our students with physical protractors. Additionally, more funding for my school would mean that our playground and facilities could undergo a major renovation, and that our school could purchase additional recreational materials. Currently, there is not shade in our playground, our schools lack a gardening and outdoor classroom area (something that other schools with a higher socioeconomic population have currently), and we are not able to offer a century room or century program materials to students that would benefit from that.
15. Investing in education through increased funding can have a significant impact on the classroom environment and the quality of education that students receive. With more financial resources, teachers can provide more tangible materials and visual aids to support student learning. These resources can range from textbooks and classroom supplies to interactive technology and specialized equipment. In addition, increased funding can also help to address specific learning needs of students, such as dyslexia. Additional funding can provide more resources for dyslexia therapists, as well as training for teachers on how to support students with dyslexia in the classroom. With more support, students with dyslexia can receive the specialized attention they need to overcome their learning challenges and succeed academically.



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16. As a math and science teacher, more funding for my classroom would mean that our students could have 1 to 1 access to chrome books and technology to support them being 21st century citizens. Currently, I teach 48 kids total, have only 24 working chromebooks (out of 30), and those 24 laptops that work are shared with my co-teacher. With more funding for my classroom, I could provide more materials for my students to do science and engineering projects hands on and in the classroom. For example, we recently had a STEM project on Erosion and another on Light - With additional materials, instead of having to watch the experiments on screen, every student would have been able to work in class with problem solving the causes of erosion in a small scale and working with a battery and wires to better understand and problem solve how electricity moves in an open versus closed system. Additionally, my students would benefit from having access to art supplies and elective art education/programs to explore the drawing/painting and learning about color theory and the possibilities of art. For example, as part of a water cycle project, students in our schools had so much joy decorating the hallways as they learned about the water cycle. Like other teachers, I provided paint, paintbrushes, and other materials out of my personal resources because I believe is important for students to have those type of joyful, collaborative, and interactive learning experiences. We could do more of these type of activities and projects with more funding.
17. Fully funding M.A.E.P. will provide Instructional materials, upkeep and operation of school buildings, special, vocational, gifted, and alternative education programs, school transportation, and educator pay and benefits.
18. We need MAEP it will help so many students with disabilities
19. Higher grades higher esteem more love for schooling
20. Funding means being able to acquire more resources and additional personnel to address student academic and social/psychological needs.
21. It would provide supplies and additional help in the classroom.



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22. Educator pay and benefits
23. Education as a civil rights.
24. More funding mean more technology, help with more extracurricular and upkeep of the schools.
25. Greater success for all students
26. Our Educators and Students deserve access to books and other supplies needed to ensure they are able to learn effectively.
27. More funding means more technology, up-to-date materials, and up-to-date facilities for our students and educators.
28. Better resources for teachers and students. Also more learning opportunities and programs for students.
29. Gifted programs rarely receive any funding or support from their district. More funding will provide resources for robotic competitions and for other projects.
30. It means having a safe place for students to learn.
31. More funding means facility upgrades, learning resources on buses, and expansion of fine arts classes.
32. As a mother of five children, three of whom have graduated from high school in the public school system, I have high expectations that my last two children will receive an even better quality of education. But speaking for all children, an increased, yet, equitable funding would mean that every child would have resources available to gain knowledge and skills to compete with other students globally. This increase would also give them access to the tools and technology needed to prepare them in the future of this changing world.
33. Funding allows your schools to grab any opportunities that come their way, such as investing in new products and services that can help your students grow.
34. Equal opportunities

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35. Fully funding this program will mean More Accessibility to Equality and Preparation for our students and educators. We need the funding to adequately prepare our students and gain accessibility to the many resources available for them. Instead of treating resources like the grocery store "Pick 5", fully funding MAEP will open up more options to suit a variety of learners for ALL STAKEHOLDERS and prepare them to become thriving Mississippi citizens. All diets can not withstand the mere basics, we've got to dig deeper but it takes resources to move beyond the surface and customize education for our students. They deserve the BEST! Let's make it happen Mississippi!!
36. More learning material, enough material for everyone
37. It means increasing educational tools to help educate our students.
38. More funding would provide a greater impact on student learning for all students. This would allow our Educators to focus more on Professional Development and quality lessons that will improve student learning in the classroom for students. Test scores would improve, graduation rates would increase along with fostering a more educated workforce in Mississippi.
39. We can secure the best teachers and keep them. Teacher turnover is terrible for the education of our scholars. Specialized experience improves classroom management and instruction. Our district was not able to give the approved raise to all educator in our district. We only received interactive tvs for some of our classrooms. Our high school can't be fixed. Water is deteriorating all the external walls. Staff and scholars suffer from constant allergies to mold. Our auditorium was only able to receive 1/3 of the auditorium chairs needed. Many of the other chairs are broken throughout the auditorium. Please help us. It is so unfair to approve a raise that the superintendent has to choose which educators will not be compensated fully.
40. More funding means, better resources and equal access for all students.
41. It would open many doors of opportunity for the students in my school. To have adequate supplies and other access would be not only what they need, but what they deserve.



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42. There are many issues that are impacting our education system. The first issue that I would attack is pay resources for our teachers, and administrators. If classroom teachers are paid correctly, then many of their funds can be placed into the education system especially in the classrooms. I have experience in how classroom teachers do not have the material to actually create a safe and comfortable learning environment. Additionally, more professional development training for administrators and teachers because being an educator is a life-long learning journey. In addition, professional development training should not always be teachers in one class, and administrators in another, but a collaboration of both. Lastly, I would have better communications channels between parents and teachers with counselors involved. The education system consists of many major highways, and everyone should be critical thinkers.
43. Experience Teachers, school supplies and qualified graduates.
44. More resources to help my students succeed.
45. Excellent teachers, and students, and administrators.