

It is the policy of the Jackson County School District to comply with all of the requirements set forth in the Speech-Language legislation provided by the MS Code (HB No.896, 2013). Pursuant to HB 896, this District will ensure that the following actions will take place.

1. Any child attending school in the Jackson County School District will be screened for Speech-Language disorders by the end of his/her first grade year.
2. The Jackson County School District ensures that the students screening shall be composed of the following elements, as set forth in HB 896:
 - a.) Language
 - b.) Articulation
 - c.) Voice
 - d.) Fluency
3. If the student fails the screener, the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the results of the screener.
4. If the student fails the screener, the school district, in its discretion, may perform a comprehensive speech-language evaluation.

If a parent or a legal guardian of a student who fails the speech-language screener exercises the option to have a subsequent evaluation performed, such evaluation shall be administered by a 215 endorsed Speech-Language Pathologist. The subsequent evaluation obtained by the parents shall be considered by the school district for eligibility in the area of speech-language in accordance with the procedures mandated by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for a placement in a speech-language program within the current school or to apply for a Mississippi Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship for placement in a speech-language program in a nonpublic special purpose school.

A parent or legal guardian may provide written notification to the local school district opting out of the mandatory screening provided by the district.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to home-schooled students.

Legal Reference: MS HB 896 (2013)