



## What is Mississippi Scholars?

[www.mississippischolars.ms](http://www.mississippischolars.ms)

The State Scholars Initiative began as a national program to utilize business leaders to motivate students to complete a more challenging course of study in high school. Mississippi joined the State Scholars Initiative in 2003. Since then, more than 14,000 Mississippi high school students have graduated with the Mississippi Scholars distinction.

The program begins the first day of ninth grade and ends when you graduate high school.

## Mississippi Scholars Mission

To encourage and motivate all high school students to complete a defined, rigorous academic course of study that prepares them for successful transition to college or university coursework or vocational and technical training necessary to enter today's competitive job market.

## What are the benefits of the program?

It better prepares you for life after high school whether you decide to go to community college, technical college, university, the military, or straight into the workforce. Exposure to more rigorous courses is critical.

A Mississippi Scholar has:

- More choices for education after high school.
- More opportunities for good jobs.
- More money to buy the things you want.
- More control over your future.

There is no penalty if you try Mississippi Scholars and do not make it through.

## Testimonials

*"Mississippi Scholars is a highly successful initiative because community and business leaders make an investment in their local schools. These leaders go into high school classrooms and make presentations encouraging and challenging students to raise the bar for themselves and take more rigorous courses. In May 2009 over 3,000 students heard the message, met the challenge and graduated as Mississippi Scholars. Just think what our students could do and our state could become with a more qualified workforce that strived to get ahead rather than just get by."*

Becky Montgomery  
Mississippi Power Company  
Manager of Community Affairs  
Past Chairman, Public Education Forum of Mississippi

*"Choosing to be a Mississippi Scholar was difficult. I have always struggled with math, and required courses including trigonometry, chemistry and pre-calculus. I made it through them all with passing grades. If it weren't for Mississippi Scholars, I would not have taken these challenging classes, and I would not be as college-ready as I am now. Thank you for challenging me to be the best I can be!"*

Caroline Driskell  
2011 Graduate, Brookhaven High School, Brookhaven, Mississippi