

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

In re: Adoption of Resolution Endorsing the Goals and Purposes of the Excel By 5 Initiative

Following discussion, Paul Griffin did offer and Karl M. Banks did second a motion to adopt the following Resolution, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, studies demonstrate without contradiction that children who have learned the ABCs and numbers, have had many children's stories read to them, and have engaged in positive social interactions with peers and adults, progress more fully and faster when they enter kindergarten and thereafter in the education programs presented by the school district; and

WHEREAS, such studies further demonstrate that children who have not been exposed to activities that promote language development, healthy social development and pre-literacy skill development do not progress as rapidly and many of them fall farther and farther behind in learning as they move from grade level to grade level; and

WHEREAS, too many of such children ultimately become so discouraged that they become school drop-outs and never attain a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, these drop-outs result in large numbers of our children who will be educationally disadvantaged for the remainder of their lives and will suffer significant social and financial disadvantages compared to students who complete a high school education; and

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to reducing substantially the drop-out rate and improving the education opportunities for all of our students; and,

WHEREAS, the Excel By 5 early childhood certification process addresses the issue of preparing pre-kindergarten children for advanced learning in kindergarten and thereafter and we believe will prove to be effective in substantially improving educational progress for all children who participate in such programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Madison County as follows;

1. That this Board commends and endorses the goals and purposes of the Excel By 5 certification process to enhance and improve the learning opportunities of all pre-school children to the end that the children will be fully receptive to and prepared for the formal education provided by the K thru 12 program of the North Madison County Excel By 5 Initiative;

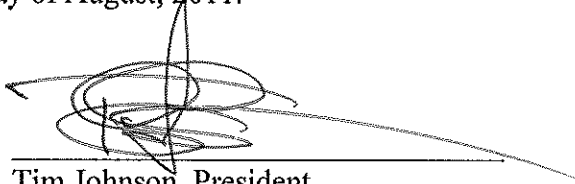
2. That this Board supports and encourages the Excel By 5 certification process in the North Madison County School area and offers the full support and cooperation of this Board in the implementation of the certification requirements;
3. That this Board encourages and invites the support of the Excel By 5 community coalition by local governments, industry, business, civic organizations, citizens, patrons of this school district, and, especially, parents of pre-kindergarten age children.

The vote on the matter being as follows:

Supervisor John Bell Crosby	Aye
Supervisor Tim Johnson	Aye
Supervisor D. I. Smith	Aye
Supervisor Karl M. Banks	Aye
Supervisor Paul Griffin	Aye

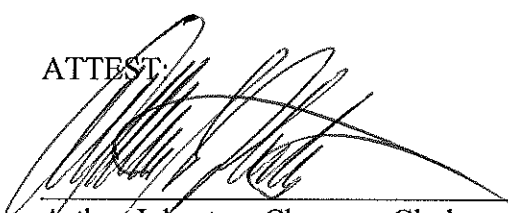
the matter carried unanimously and said Resolution was and is hereby adopted.

SO ORDERED this the 8th day of August, 2011.



Tim Johnson, President
Madison County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Arthur Johnston, Chancery Clerk





Believe it or not, our children's futures may well be

determined by what their lives are like in their early years. This isn't opinion; it's scientific fact.

EXCEL BY 5 is an innovative early childhood community certification process focusing on a community's young children. It emphasizes the important roles parents and early childhood educators play in the lives of children during their most formative years – birth to age five.

Our purpose is to engage communities to help give every child a chance to live up to his or her potential. This not only makes a positive difference in children's lives, it makes a positive difference in the future of communities.



Our goal is for children in EXCEL BY 5 communities to be healthier and better prepared for kindergarten and beyond.

EXCEL BY 5 candidate communities accept the challenge to become certified EXCEL BY 5 "child friendly" communities. This means they support parents and children by connecting them with the available resources and services they need to lead healthy and strong lives.

Whether you're a parent, a neighbor, a local business person or a caring community member, you can become an EXCEL BY 5 community partner.

Is your **community** ready for the **challenge?**

excelby5.com



Hallmarks of an EXCEL BY 5 Early Childhood Community:

Community Involvement

A key asset in the life of any child is his community. By forming a coalition of community leaders, educators, business, health care, parents, and other concerned citizens, we work to promote parenting and children's services through health fairs, reading extravaganzas, workshops, and other events. EXCEL BY 5 community coalition members develop a resource guide of organizations to be distributed to families so parents know what's available to them and their children.

Family and Parent Support

We strive to support families of children ages 0-5 through family service agencies, available parenting resources, workshops, and community events. Helping parents know what is available to them is one of the strongest ways to support our community's children.

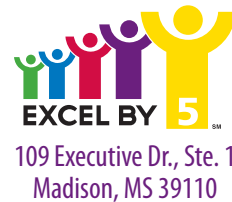
Early Care and Education

Outside of the home, early care and education centers and other caregivers can be the strongest resources for helping to grow healthy children who are ready for school success. We inform those centers and caregivers of opportunities for quality early childhood trainings and continuing education.

Health

We identify and address children's health issues in the community and assist in providing intervention services such as well-baby care and health screenings. We also conduct local health fairs to provide information to parents and compile a list of health resources in our community.





Learning Can't Wait

- Experiences in the first three years contribute significantly to brain development.
- Early experiences lay the foundation for all later learning.
- The key to learning is language development.

Tips for Parents & Community Members

- Talking, reading and singing to children set the stage for learning.
- Volunteer to read books to children at a childcare center, school, or after-school program.
- Partner with your local EXCEL BY 5 coalition to support quality early childhood education.

Your participation will help children to be better prepared for kindergarten and the 1st grade. For more information visit WWW.EXCELBY5.COM or contact your local community coalition to learn how you can become involved and improve early learning.

Helping

Our Children

EXCEL BY 5!

Developing our greatest resource means realizing the potential of our youngest citizens.



In the summer of 2011, community stakeholders made a commitment to future generations of Madison County when they committed to implementing Excel by 5 – the innovative program that helps communities better prepare their young children for success in school. Excel by 5 is a first-of-its-kind in the United States, and is implemented solely in our great State of Mississippi. We have made great strides in implementing Excel by 5; most notably in completing various needs assessments, organizing and forming work groups for the various emphasis areas of Excel by 5 and by capitalizing on the willingness of various community partners to support the education of children during their most formative years--birth to age five.

During the last year and a half, North Madison County Excel by 5 is actively completing the required components for recognition as a certified Excel community and is currently in midst of the “candidate” process. The North Madison County Excel by 5 chapter, which is composed of the board members, steering committee, as well as, volunteers and organizations throughout the community, are working diligently to achieve the Excel by 5 certification for the children of North Madison County! The certification process is meant to identify available resources and existing best practices to help Excel By 5 Early Childhood Communities reach the goal of having all of their children ready to learn when they start school at age five. Once completed, the North Madison County Excel by 5 will be certified as a community where young children can thrive through the support of their parents, educators, and community members.

In working toward certification, North Madison County Excel By 5 has set forth a variety of standards involving parent training, community participation, child care and health to help this community focus on supporting young children and their families. A team of educators, community leaders, and parents are working together to help make North Madison County an even more nurturing, safer environment for our children. The North Madison County Excel by 5 team includes many members who add their own special knowledge and talent to this endeavor.

Excel by 5 has sponsored multiple events in the local community with the intention of helping young children and their parents prepare for school during the 2012 year. The largest event of the year was the education summit held in Canton, MS. This event was a huge success, with hundreds of children learning about many different aspects of everyday life in a community. The educational summit was also a learning opportunity for parents and adults. Excel by 5 of North Madison County has also sponsored a health fair, as well as, a town hall meeting where citizens and community leaders came together to share their thoughts and ideas for the needs of the community’s children.

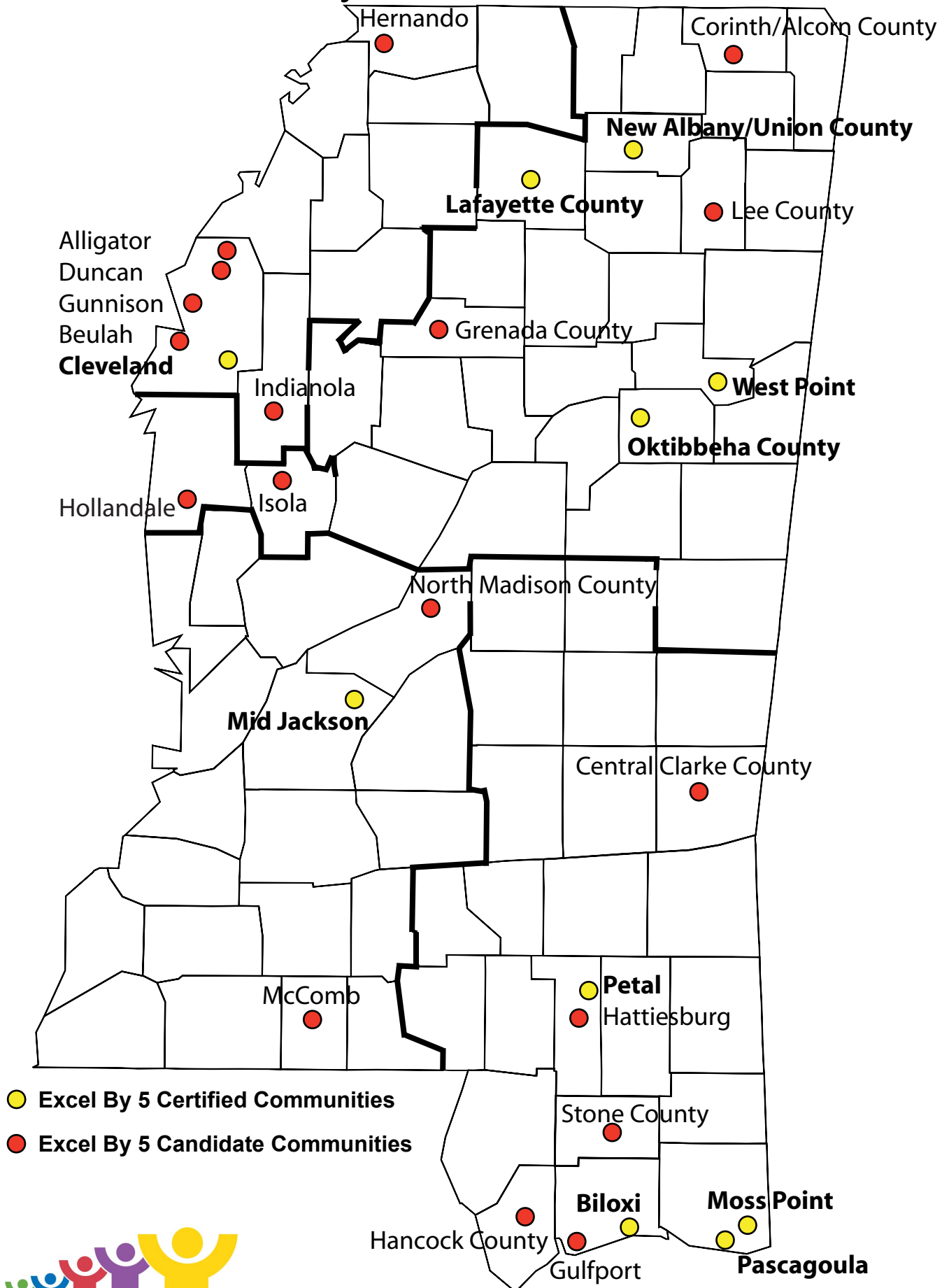
In closing, I would like to emphasize why early childhood education and learning should be important to every parent, educator, and community. Studies have proven time and again that the earlier parents, educators, and communities start to expose their young children to learning opportunities, the better they will perform in kindergarten, elementary school, and high-school.

Consider these facts:

- Third grade reading scores are used to predict the number of prison cells that will be needed in 10 to 12 years.
- Experiences in the first three years of a child’s life contribute significantly to the structure of the brain.
- The brain is already ¼ of its adult size at birth.

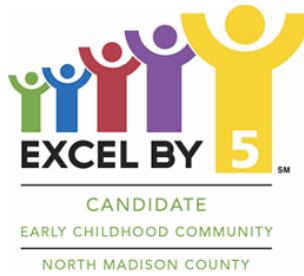
The North Madison County chapter of Excel by 5 is well on its way of becoming an Excel by 5 certified community! We appreciate the support of our community and look forward to sharing our progress with you in the months to come.

Excel By 5 Communities 2013



- Excel By 5 Certified Communities
- Excel By 5 Candidate Communities





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