



DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS

5 East South Street • Hernando, Mississippi 38632
662-429-5271 • fax 662-429-4198 • Website: www.desotocountyschools.org

"EXCELLENCE IS A COMMITMENT"

October 15, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Over the past several days, I have heard from many parents who are deeply concerned about individual court statements that were outlined in the District Attorney's press conference Monday afternoon. I completely understand the concerns that have been expressed this week. As both an educator and a parent, I share your outrage at any act that harms a child — and I want to state clearly and unequivocally that neither I nor DeSoto County Schools condone, support, or excuse such behavior in any form.

During my ten years as Superintendent of Education, I have seen firsthand the heart, dedication, and professionalism of our teachers, administrators, and support staff. They come to work each day driven to protect, nurture, and educate the children of this community. The safety and protection of students is non-negotiable. Every child deserves to learn in an environment where they are safe, valued, and respected, and that belief is at the heart of every decision that is made.

In Monday's press conference, it was indicated that some DCS employees provided character references. Those actions were taken in their personal capacities and were not sanctioned by DeSoto County Schools. Even when employees' personal opinions do not align with the district's values, school districts are bound by employment laws that protect due process and clearly define when and how disciplinary action can be taken. With that being said, complying with employment laws does not mean that DeSoto County Schools agrees with or supports the actions of any employee whose behavior conflicts with our core values.

I want our families to know that DeSoto County Schools will always stand firmly on the side of protecting children. I am proud to lead a district where integrity, compassion, and accountability guide everything we do, and I remain fully committed to ensuring that our schools reflect those standards.

I want to thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, our district will move forward with strength and unity, focused on what matters most — the safety, respect, and success of every child in DeSoto County Schools.

Sincerely,

Cory Uselton
Superintendent of Education
DeSoto County Schools