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FOUNDATION®

*A Partner With Communities Where Children Come First*

## Jackson Public Schools Announcement | Oct. 26, 2017

### **Summary**

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba will be announcing a joint commission charged with understanding the educational ecosystem of Jackson Public Schools (JPS) and charting a path forward that ensures academic success for all of its children. WKKF is announcing its support for this commission and their discovery process, along with a community engagement effort that enables the community's voice and vision to be included in the commission's recommendations.

### **FAQ**

#### ***What is the foundation's role in this partnership?***

Mississippi is a priority for our investments and as a national funder focused on the well-being of children, including the education of our youngest children. We have learnings, networks and resources that we can leverage to support this discovery process. Additionally, community engagement is core to the foundation's DNA and we are committed to ensuring that the community's voice and vision are represented in any action plan.

#### ***What is the foundation agreeing to fund?***

The foundation has agreed to help support - along with others funders and entities – the governor and mayor's joint commission and its efforts to understand the educational ecosystem in Jackson and identify sustainable solutions that ensure equity and academic excellence for all of Jackson Public Schools students. Additionally, we are eager to support the community's engagement in this effort to ensure their voice and vision is incorporated into any recommendations and plan.

#### ***Does this mean the foundation will fund the recommendations that come from the audit and community visioning process?***

The Kellogg Foundation is committed to engaging the community to identify the challenges and opportunities facing Jackson Public Schools and chart a path forward that ensures every student achieves academic success. WKKF supports community-led solutions, and we are eager to see the recommendation of the study, which will inform our future actions and investments in Jackson and in the schools.

#### ***How has the foundation supported Jackson Public Schools in the past?***

We have supported various organizations that have worked to increase access and quality of early childhood learning; increase the reading proficiency so students are not held back by the Third Grade Reading Gate; transform school discipline policies; and building cultural competency in the schools.

