

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



Executive Order No. 1589

WHEREAS, as the United States prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, we must address the threat to the vitality and longevity of our great Nation that is posed by its declining health and physical fitness. For far too long, the physical and mental health of the American people has been neglected, with rates of obesity, chronic disease, inactivity and poor nutrition reaching crisis levels, particularly among our children; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 14327 dated July 31, 2025, President Donald J. Trump ordered the reestablishment of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition ("President's Council") and reinstituted the Presidential Fitness Test; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Trump Administration to (a) prioritize and expand children's participation in youth sports and active play; (b) promote the physical, mental, and civic benefits of daily movement, exercise, and good nutrition; and (c) engage every sector — public and private, civilian and military — in creating a national culture of strength, vitality and excellence; and

WHEREAS, as reported by the Mississippi Department of Health, obesity among Mississippi students and children has historically been among the highest in the Nation, with one quarter of high school students in Mississippi being obese. An estimated 40% of high school students are not physically active for an hour a day, and about 28% watch television for three or more hours a day on school days; and

WHEREAS, childhood obesity and the chronic diseases that result therefrom weaken our economy, military readiness, academic performance and national morale, leading to poor quality of life, increased cost of healthcare and shortened lifespans; and

WHEREAS, to help address the declining health and physical fitness of American youth, President Trump has ordered the President's Council to recommend strategies for (a) reestablishing the Presidential Fitness Test, with appropriate improvements, as the main assessment tool for the Presidential Fitness Award, and (b) the development and promotion of Presidential challenges and school-based programs that reward excellence in physical education; and

WHEREAS, developing and implementing evidence-based strategies and public information/education campaigns to address deficiencies in nutrition, diet and exercise across the State, as well as reestablishing the Presidential Fitness Test and making it accessible to elementary, middle and high school students across the State are top priorities of my administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and relevant laws, hereby order as follows:

1. Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 7-1-5(k), I request that Dr. Daniel Edney, State Health Officer, deliver a report to me by June 30, 2026, proposing evidence-based strategies and suggesting public information/education campaigns to address deficiencies in nutrition, diet and exercise across the State.

2. Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 7-1-5(k), I request that Dr. Lance Evans, State Superintendent of Education, work with United States Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Secretary of Education Linda McMahon and deliver a report to me by

June 30, 2026, proposing a plan for reestablishing the Presidential Fitness Test and making it accessible to elementary, middle and high school students across the State.

3. Effective for the 2026-2027 academic year, the Presidential Fitness Test is hereby reestablished in the State of Mississippi and shall be accessible to elementary, middle and high school students across the State.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 29th day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE