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## Inspiring Minds, Exploring Science with Project SCORE Curriculum

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# Inspiring Minds, Exploring Science With Project SCORE Curriculum

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## SCORE CURRICULUM

On nearly all indicators related to STEM preparedness, Mississippi (MS) consistently ranks as the worst or nearly the worst in the United States. Only 20% of MS 8th graders demonstrated science proficiency and only 4.6% of MS high school students earned a 3 or higher on an AP exam in 2018.13 In 2019, only 37.4% of MS students met the national standard for college and career ready. This impacts the STEM pipeline. While MS needs medical practitioners, we also need a wider biomedical workforce including a public health workforce to address the health challenges and inequities Mississippians face. Project SCORE operates with the following mission: As a comprehensive science enrichment program, we engage with students in participatory educational and research experiences in public health disciplines. Project SCORE aims to engage, educate, and mentor students to participate in the health sciences. The program meets on a weekly basis during the academic year. The sessions bring experts, graduate students, and undergraduate students together to facilitate engaging, interactive health science lessons. Year 1 of the program is now complete and year 2 is underway.

## Project SCORE 2022-2023 Afterschool Curriculum

Fall Sessions	Spring Sessions
Session 1: Introduction to Project	Session 1: Welcome and Review
Session 2: Intro to Public Health	Session 2: Research Ethics
Session 3: Epidemiology	Session 3: Health Policy
Session 4: Careers in the Health Sciences	Session 4: Developing a Research Agenda
Session 5: Health Literacy	Session 5: Health Communication
Session 6: Health Disparities	Session 6: Research Health Ed Messaging
Session 7: Scientific Research Methods	Session 7: Develop Health Ed Message
Session 8: Research Questions	Session 8: Presentations & Close Ceremony



**SCORE Students out for a walk to decompress after school.**



**Students establishing classroom agreements while in SCORE.**



**Students actively engaged in a Public Health Lesson.**

## ADJUSTMENTS for YEAR 2

- Evaluation findings indicate:
- Students disliked formal presentations (e.g., Powerpoint lectures) and completing handouts
  - Students preferred activities that allowed for active engagement and participation.
  - Students were more engaged with physical activity and movement.
  - Near peer mentors identified additional training needs
- These insights were utilized to make adjustments for Year 2. Updates included:
- Added time for the high school students to be active at start of session
  - Incorporated social emotional learning with mindfulness activities
  - Removed formal instruction and replaced it with more engaging health science lessons
  - Incorporated physical movement and more interaction in all lessons
  - Created weekly training and professional development program for the Near Peer Mentors to learn best practices when engaging with students in an afterschool learning environment.

## PROGRAM DAILY SCHEDULE

### ARRIVAL

Sign in, snack from local farmers' market

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Walk, yoga, activity to decompress

### MINDFULNESS

Learn a breathing technique and when/how to use it

### SCORE Lesson

Each session has a different set of engaging activities

### REFLECTION/WRAP UP

Self-reflection time and info on what is to come