



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation

A Subsidiary of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.

News

Building a Healthy Mississippi

Fall 2021

Foundation Names 2021 Mississippi “Healthy Schools”

Bell Academy and Northeast Lauderdale Elementary School Honored with Awards



Pictured above: Students at Bell Academy (left) and Northeast Lauderdale Elementary School (right) engage in healthy activities.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation

Vision

A Healthy Mississippi

Mission

Provide targeted grants to fund programs and initiatives to improve the health and well-being of Mississippians

Strategic Focus

- Communities
- Schools



Building on the goals of school health councils statewide, the **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation Healthy Schools Awards Program** is setting the bar for what a 21st century learning environment should be for Mississippi’s children. The award application is a roadmap for school health and wellness best practices for personnel, students and families that includes nutrition, physical activity, mental and social well-being and creates opportunities for establishing life-changing healthy habits that can begin at any

age. The Program recognizes and rewards public schools with health policies and programs that promote healthy eating, exercise, staff wellness and tobacco-free lifestyles among students and staff, and parental and community involvement.

Bell Academy (Cleveland School District) and **Northeast Lauderdale Elementary School** (Lauderdale County School District) were each honored with a **2021 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation Healthy School Award**. Sheila Grogan, Foundation President, and Eugenia King, Health and Fitness Coordinator, presented the awards to an audience of 1,100 education leaders at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents Summer Conference held on Biloxi. Each winning school receives a **\$50,000** grant from the Foundation to assist in efforts to create and sustain a healthy school learning environment.

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Healthy SCHOOL Awards



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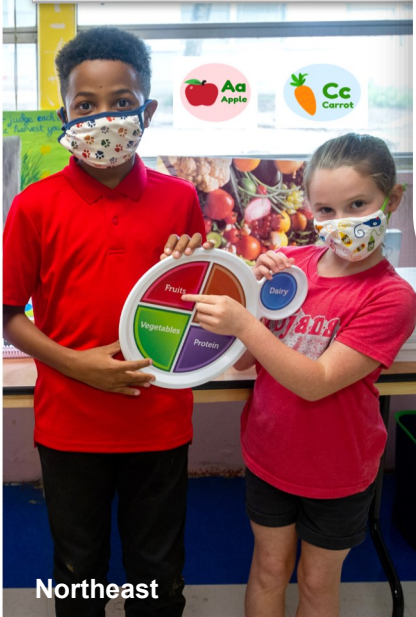
Photo Gallery



Bell Academy



Bell Academy



Northeast



Northeast



Northeast

Healthy SCHOOL Awards



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2022 Applications

Due: **March 10, 2022**



The **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation** is pleased to partner with the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents to promote school health and wellness through the **Healthy School Awards**.

At the 2022 Mississippi Association of School Superintendents Annual Summer Convention in Biloxi, the Foundation may award a “Healthy School” grant to one school, or award “Healthy School” grants to multiple schools, each at **\$50,000**, regardless of school enrollment.

The 2022 Healthy School Awards application and criteria are available online at:

www.healthiermississippi.org



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Building a Healthy Mississippi

New Playground for The Children's Center at USM Gulf Park in Long Beach

The **Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation** awarded a grant to **The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Foundation** to fund a special needs playground at **The Children's Center for Communication and Development**, located on USM's Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach. The **3,500 square foot playground** was completed in October 2021 and serves as an outdoor therapy space for children with complex intellectual and physical disabilities who receive cost-free services from The Children's Center. It will also be a play space for children in the Gulf Coast region, both with and without developmental disabilities.

Sheila Grogan, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation President, made remarks at the official grand opening and ribbon cutting held October 19:

"The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is proud of its partnership with The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation and The Children's Center to provide a playground to encourage children and their families to spend more time outside engaging in fun play activities. The Foundation has a vision for a healthy Mississippi, and studies show there are a variety of health benefits through interactive outdoor play, including physical and cognitive development and social and emotional well-being."

Pictured right: Children with their therapists explore the new playground at The Children's Center in Long Beach (Images courtesy of The Children's Center).



Coming Soon.... Building a Healthy Mississippi Near You!



Pictured left: Construction of the Indianola Community Wellness Center continues on schedule for completion in early 2022. The building is located at the corner of East Baker Street and Moody Avenue.



Pictured left and right: Turf and shade structures are being installed at the LeFleur's Bluff State Park playground in Jackson, including the "Blue Bus" play structure recognizing the Foundation's generous grant award for the playground, outdoor classroom and pavilion and museum trail- all coming in early 2022! (Images courtesy of the Mississippi Children's Museum).



Learn more about the Indianola Community Wellness Center and the LeFleur's State Park Playground, Outdoor Classroom and Pavilion and Museum Trail by visiting www.healthiermississippi.org.

Is your town a



Mississippi Healthy Hometown?

The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is pleased to partner with the Mississippi Municipal League to promote community health and wellness through the Healthy Hometown Awards.

At the 2022 Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference, the Foundation may award a "Healthy Hometown" grant to one hometown, or award "Healthy Hometown" grants to multiple hometowns, each at \$50,000, regardless of municipality population. The application and criteria are available online at:

www.healthiermississippi.org.

2022 APPLICATIONS DUE:
MARCH 10, 2022

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