2008 - 2009 MS School District QDI Rankings, Enrollments, and Expenditures *Not* Provided by the 2010 Governor's Commission on School Consolidation

This map provides data for each school district that we sought from the Governor's Commission on Educational Structure (school consolidation), but could not get. This data was graciously provided to us by the MS Dept. of Education as public information under Mississippi state law.

What the numbers on the Map represent:
This map illustrates for each school district the 3 variables that the Commission's consultant, Augenblick & Palaich, used in combination to identify and target 18 school districts for consolidation:

A. the 2008-2009 Quality Distribution Index (QDI) school district accountability rating for each school district (purple);

B. the 2008-2009 total enrollment for each school district (green);

C. the 2008-2009 cost per student of central office administrative expenditures for each school district (blue).

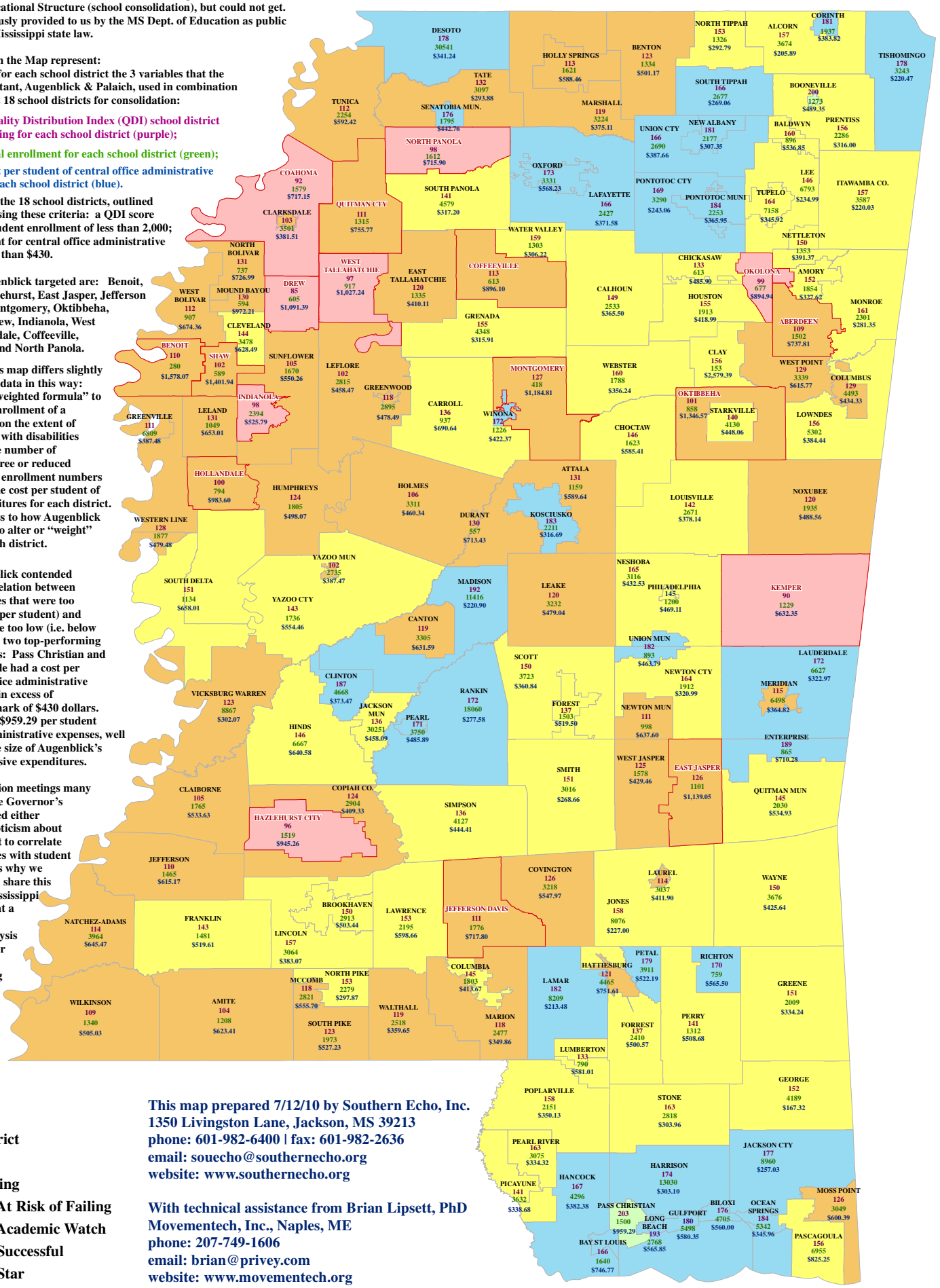
Augenblick targeted the 18 school districts, outlined and labeled in red, using these criteria: a QDI score of 127 or below; a student enrollment of less than 2,000; and a cost per student for central office administrative expenditures greater than $430.

The 18 districts Augenblick targeted are: Benoit, Shaw, Okolona, Hazlehurst, East Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Aberdeen, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Quitman County, Drew, Indianola, West Tallahatchie, Hollandale, Coffeeville, Coahoma, Kemper and North Panola.

The data used for this map differs slightly from the Augenblick data in this way: Augenblick used a "weighted formula" to increase the size of enrollment of a school district based on the extent of disability of students with disabilities and also based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. The weighted enrollment numbers necessarily change the cost per student of central office expenditures for each district. We do not have access to how Augenblick applied his formula to alter or "weight" the enrollment in each district.

Please Note: Augenblick contended that there was a correlation between central office expenses that were too high (i.e. above $430 per student) and QDI ratings that were too low (i.e. below 127). Mississippi has two top-performing STAR school districts: Pass Christian and Booneville. Booneville had a cost per student of central office administrative expenses of $489.35, in excess of Augenblick's benchmark of $430 dollars. Pass Christian spent $959.29 per student for central office administrative expenses, well more than double the size of Augenblick's benchmark for excessive expenditures.

During the Commission meetings many of the members of the Governor's Commission expressed either disagreement or skepticism about Augenblick's attempt to correlate central office expenses with student performance. That is why we wanted to obtain and share this data for all of the Mississippi school districts so that a more comprehensive comparison and analysis can be done and a fair assessment of Augenblick's offering to the Commission can be made.



Legend

MS School District QDI Ranking

- 0 - 99 Failing
- 100 - 132 At Risk of Failing
- 133 - 165 Academic Watch
- 166 - 199 Successful
- 200 - 300 Star

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