**Maggie Griffin – new Moss Point Superintendent**

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Maggie Griffin

MOSS POINT, Mississippi -- Vancleave native Maggie Griffin will replace Greg Ladner as Moss Point School District's superintendent, district officials said Friday afternoon.

Griffin, who has 33 years in education, is currently assistant superintendent at Laurel School District and will arrive in Moss Point July 8, school board President Clifton Magee said.

"We felt that Dr. Griffin was the right fit for Moss Point in our endeavors to raise our academic scores," Magee said. "She has vast experience in the field of education and brings a wealth of knowledge that can help our school district continue to move forward."

While Griffin has been at Laurel School District, it has increased its state testing score by 20 QDI points, the school district said in a news release.

She has also previously served as a curriculum director and as superintendent of the South Pike School District.

While at South Pike, the schools' academic growth rose to "successful" throughout the district.

During her 10-year tenure as principal at McLaurin Elementary in Rankin County, the school rose to a level five status and was rated by the Mississippi Department of Education as the highest ranking student performance school. The school received the "Closing the Achievement Gap Award" for that achievement.

Griffin has served as the president of the Mississippi Association of School Administrators and is a member of the Laurel Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, serving as chair of the Educational Development Committee.

Ladner announced earlier this year that he would not seek a permanent Moss Point superintendent post, and his contract expires Saturday.

Ladner, a retired superintendent from Pearl Public School District with 32 years of experience, was tapped to step in as interim superintendent when Kim Staley's contract expired on June 30, 2011.