

## WEST BOLIVAR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Federal Programs

### **2020 Census: What is the Census?**

The Census has been a cornerstone of our democracy since the first national count in 1790. It is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online.

### **What You Need to Know about the Census?**

Every decade, people all across the country and in Bolivar County fill out the Census in order to have an accurate count of all people in the United States. The Census determines many funding opportunities for our District including federal funding for important community services that help support our families and a fair share of representation in our area.

The next Census is in Spring 2020. Let's ensure that all West Bolivar Consolidated residents are counted so we can put resources to good use here at home.

### **Census Key Dates**

Beginning in mid-March 2020 each household will get a letter in the mail. The letter will explain all the ways to fill out the Census. If you do not receive a letter, you can still go online and call to fill it out. Be sure to include any person living in your household, family or not.

### **Why West Bolivar Consolidated Citizens Should Take the Census?**

The Census is safe, protected and confidential. The Census helps determine how much money Mississippi receives for important programs and services. When you fill out the Census, you help your community get its fair share of money. Please understand that if the collected Census data fails to represent groups present within your area, it will be more difficult for existing needs to be determined and addressed. **Consequently, schools could be underfunded resulting in a lack of resources available to students who need them most. This could adversely impact student achievement.**

### **How to Complete the 2020 Census?**

Every person in the country is required to fill out the 2020 Census form. Luckily, you have three ways to respond.

**Mail:** Request a paper Census form in Spanish or English that can be mailed back to the U.S. Census Bureau

**Phone:** The Census can be completed by phone in 13 languages

**Online:** For the first time the Census form will be available to complete online in 13 languages

For more information regarding the 2020 Census, please visit <https://2020census.gov/en.html>