

# Leadership Is

## *Putting Students and Taxpayers First*

For many years, usmnews.net has [reported](#) recommendations that the IHL [merge](#) some of the colleges and universities in Mississippi. In this era of rising tuition and falling enrollment, it makes sense. Many of usmnews.net's readers have applauded the idea. Cut costs and improve the quality of education. A few have questioned whether Mississippi should undertake such an "untried" plan. However, the plan can no longer be considered untried.

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[Just Like That, 12 Campuses in Georgia Become 6](#)

By Andy Thomason

On Tuesday the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents approved a [plan](#) to merge Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College, laying the groundwork for what would be the system's largest institution. [Consolidation](#) has been a [favorite strategy](#) of system leaders, who have now approved six campus mergers in three years, as a response to declining levels of state funding...

Colleges and universities which are ready to make difficult decisions, including merger, will increase their likelihood of surviving. Unfortunately, Mississippi's IHL and its colleges and universities seem unable to abandon the death spiral of declining enrollment and expanding administration and moribund sports programs.