Nathan Oakley serves as Executive Director for the Office of Elementary Education and Reading (OEER) at the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). This office is responsible for content standards for Pre-K through grade 5, early childhood education, gifted education, literacy (K-12), library media services (K-12), instructional technology (K-12), response to intervention processes (K-12), dyslexia supports (K-12), textbook adoption (K-12), and several related grant programs. Nathan also serves as the MDE’s primary contact for the Every Student Succeeds Act, the reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

A native of Starkville, Mississippi, he holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Mississippi State University (MSU), a Master of Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, an Educational Specialist degree from MSU, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree also from MSU. In addition to working as a school administrator at the elementary, high school, and district level, Nathan previously taught band, general music, and fine arts at the middle school and high school level. He and his family live on a farm outside of Jackson.