

By: Representative Manning

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 249

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND
2 ASSESSMENT SUPPORT CENTER AS A SEPARATE STATE AGENCY TO ENHANCE
3 THE STATE INVESTMENT IN A STRONG SYSTEM OF EDUCATIONAL
4 ACCOUNTABILITY AND TO ENSURE THE ONGOING INTEGRITY OF THE DATA OF
5 THE STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Education
8 Accountability and Assessment Support Center, the purposes of
9 which shall be to enhance the state investment in a strong system
10 of educational accountability and to ensure the ongoing integrity
11 of the data of the statewide accountability model, specifically,
12 data from standardized assessments.

13 (2) The Education Accountability and Assessment Support
14 Center shall be responsible for ensuring that accountability
15 assessments:

16 (a) Are part of a cohesive, comprehensive educational
17 plan to promote academic success of students in Grades K-12; and

18 (b) Support, rather than contradict, state educational
19 goals, local curricula and teaching and learning processes through
20 coordination of development and implementation of professional
21 training and support, as well as research on progress of
22 educational initiatives, including reports for policy makers and
23 the general public.

24 (3) In order to promote greater efficiency in the
25 expenditure of state funds, the center shall be established as a
26 separate agency within the state and in a manner to ensure
27 credibility with professional communities, including assessment,

28 school psychometry, psychology and reading. Collaboration with
29 the State Department of Education, specifically the Office of
30 Educational Accountability, shall be established to ensure
31 attainment of goals.

32 (4) Funding for the center shall be derived from legislative
33 appropriations and shall be based upon no less than ten percent
34 (10%) of funds allocated for assessments used in the
35 accountability model.

36 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after July 1, 1999.