

By: Representative Smith (35th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 524

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE CURRICULUM IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF
2 MISSISSIPPI FOR GRADES K-3 TO INCLUDE CERTAIN RESEARCH-BASED
3 READING INSTRUCTION AND DIRECT, SYSTEMIC INSTRUCTION IN CERTAIN
4 SKILLS; TO REQUIRE ALL THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE A NATIONALLY
5 STANDARDIZED NORM-REFERENCED TEST OF BASIC READING SKILLS; TO
6 REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED READING
7 INSTRUCTION TO STUDENTS SCORING BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE ON THE
8 TEST; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. (1) The curriculum in the public schools of
11 Mississippi for Grades K-3 shall include, but not be limited to,
12 the following research-based reading instruction:

13 (a) Direct instruction in phonemic awareness;

14 (b) Direct systematic, explicit instruction in
15 sound-symbol relationships (phonics);

16 (c) Direct instruction and practice in blending the
17 sound-symbols into words;

18 (d) Ample practice in reading decodable text (text in
19 which at least ninety-five percent (95%) of the words use only
20 previously taught sound-symbol relationships); and

21 (e) Instruction in reading comprehension, first using
22 interesting teacher read stories and then applying acquired
23 comprehension skills to decodable text.

24 (2) The curriculum in the public schools of Mississippi for
25 Grades K-3 also shall include, but not be limited to, direct,
26 systemic instruction in the following:

27 (a) Word attack skills;

28 (b) Spelling;

29 (c) Vocabulary development; and

30 (d) Grammar, punctuation and capitalization.

31 (3) All third-grade students shall take a nationally
32 standardized norm-referenced test of basic reading skills
33 (decoding and comprehension).

34 (4) Any student who achieves a score on the test required
35 under subsection (3) of this section which is below the national
36 average shall be provided with individualized remedial instruction
37 by the school district following the research-based outline, in
38 addition to the regular curriculum of reading instruction, until
39 the student has achieved a level of basic reading and reading
40 comprehension consistent with the national average.

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