

By: Representative Manning

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 751  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BEGINNING PRINCIPAL SUPPORT PILOT  
2 PROGRAM UNDER THE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF THE  
3 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF  
4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE  
5 STANDARDS FOR MENTOR PRINCIPALS AND BEGINNING PRINCIPALS  
6 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF  
7 SUCH PRINCIPALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) The following words and phrases shall have  
10 the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context clearly  
11 indicates otherwise:

12 (a) "Beginning principal" means a principal who:

13 (i) Possesses an administrator's license issued by  
14 the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
15 Certification and Licensure and Development;

16 (ii) Is employed as a principal by a public school  
17 district; and

18 (iii) Has served fewer than ninety (90)  
19 consecutive days, or one hundred eighty (180) days total, as a  
20 licensed principal in any public school.

21 (b) "Formal assistance" means a program provided by a  
22 mentor principal to a beginning principal which includes, but is  
23 not limited to: direct administrative observation and  
24 consultation; assistance in administrative planning and  
25 preparation; support in implementation and delivery of principal  
26 administrative responsibilities; and support in the administrative  
27 functions of school leadership, student psychology, student  
28 health, student drug abuse, human relations, multicultural and

29 multiethnic relations, crisis management and other assistance  
30 intended to enhance the professional performance and development  
31 of the beginning principal.

32 (c) "Mentor principal" means a principal who:

33 (i) Possesses a standard administrative license  
34 issued by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
35 Certification and Licensure and Development;

36 (ii) At the time of selection, is employed under  
37 contract primarily as a principal by a public school district or  
38 is retired from a public school district;

39 (iii) Has successfully served for three (3) or  
40 more years as a licensed principal in any public school; and

41 (iv) Has demonstrated mastery of administrative  
42 skills and subject matter knowledge and has been selected and  
43 trained as described in this act.

44 (2) The School Executive Management Institute of the State  
45 Department of Education shall establish a Beginning Principal  
46 Support Pilot Program to provide eligible beginning principals in  
47 this state with continued and sustained support from a formally  
48 assigned mentor principal during the first full year of principal  
49 service.

50 (3) The State Board of Education shall select one (1) school  
51 district in each of the five (5) Mississippi congressional  
52 districts, pursuant to the application process provided for in  
53 this section, to participate in the Beginning Principal Support  
54 Pilot Program. Two (2) or more districts may operate jointly a  
55 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program if the districts meet  
56 all the requirements of this section. School districts may  
57 coordinate with institutions of higher learning in the design,  
58 implementation and evaluation of mentorship programs. Private  
59 educational consortia established for approved principal education  
60 programs are eligible to operate a Beginning Principal Support  
61 Pilot Program to serve beginning principals in a participating  
62 school district.

63 (4) Each district that wishes to participate in the  
64 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program shall submit a formal  
65 application to the School Executive Management Institute before

66 May 1 of each school year, according to rules of the institute.

67 By that date, districts shall inform the institute of the

68 following:

69 (a) The names of all eligible beginning principals  
70 employed by the district and a description of their administrative  
71 duties;

72 (b) The names of mentor principals selected by a  
73 district and a description of their administrative assignments and  
74 endorsements;

75 (c) A description of the content and calendar of the  
76 proposed Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program. The program  
77 shall provide a minimum of ninety (90) hours of direct contact  
78 between mentor principals and beginning principals, including  
79 observation or assistance with administrative duties, or both,  
80 during the school day; and

81 (d) A description of the amount and nature of each  
82 eligible beginning principal's administrative duties.

83 (5) After consulting with representatives of administrators,  
84 school boards, schools of education of the institutions of higher  
85 learning and such others as it considers appropriate, the School  
86 Executive Management Institute shall develop or approve workshops  
87 to provide training for mentor principals and beginning  
88 principals.

89 (6) The selection, nature and extent of duties of mentor  
90 principals shall be determined by the school district, subject to  
91 the following:

92 (a) No principal shall be designated as a mentor  
93 principal unless willing to perform in that role;

94 (b) Each mentor principal shall complete successfully a  
95 training workshop provided or approved by the School Executive  
96 Management Institute in the Beginning Principal Support Pilot  
97 Program; and

98 (c) Participating school districts shall be fully

99 authorized to compensate principal mentors, grant release time for  
100 principal mentors and employ and compensate substitute  
101 administrators for additional duties performed under the beginning  
102 principal mentorship program which are in addition to regular  
103 school day responsibilities.

104 (7) The School Executive Management Institute shall be  
105 responsible for the regular and ongoing evaluation of the  
106 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program and may contract for  
107 such evaluation. The institute shall report to the State Board of  
108 Education and the Legislature in the 2003 Regular Session on the  
109 desirability of extending this assistance program statewide.

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