

By: Senator(s) Ferris

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2190  
(As Passed the Senate)

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 APPLICATION BY  
4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE  
5 STANDARDS FOR MENTOR PRINCIPALS AND BEGINNING PRINCIPALS TO  
6 PARTICIPATE 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) As used in this section:

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

11 (i) Possesses an administrator's certificate  
12 issued by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
13 Certification, Licensure and Development;

14 (ii) Is employed as a principal by a public school  
15 district; and

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

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

29 of the beginning principal.

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

31 (i) Possesses a standard administrative  
32 certificate issued by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator  
33 Education, Certification, Licensure and Development;

34 (ii) Is employed at the time of selection under  
35 contract primarily as a principal by a public school district;

36 (iii) Has successfully served for three (3) or  
37 more years as a certificated principal in any public school; and

38 (iv) Has demonstrated mastery of administrative  
39 skills and subject matter knowledge and has been selected and  
40 trained as described in this act.

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

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

59 (4) Each district that wishes to participate in the  
60 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program shall submit a formal  
61 application to the School Executive Management Institute no later  
62 than May 1 of each school year, according to rules of the  
63 institute. By that date, districts shall inform the institute of  
64 the following:

65 (a) The names of all eligible beginning principals

66 employed by the district and a description of their administrative  
67 duties;

68 (b) The names of mentor principals selected by a  
69 district and a description of their administrative assignments and  
70 endorsements;

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

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

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

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

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

90 (b) Each mentor principal shall complete successfully a  
91 training workshop provided or approved by the School Executive  
92 Management Institute in the Beginning Principal Support Pilot  
93 Program; and

94 (c) Participating school districts shall be fully  
95 authorized to compensate principal mentors, grant release time for  
96 principal mentors and employ and compensate substitute  
97 administrators for additional duties performed under the beginning  
98 principal mentorship program which are in addition to regular

99 school day responsibilities.

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

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