

By: Senator(s) Hawks

To: Education

## SENATE BILL NO. 2429

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2 TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STUDENT READINESS FOR COLLEGE INCENTIVE  
3 GRANT PROGRAM UNDER WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH THE HIGHEST  
4 PERCENTAGE OF ITS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES READY FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL  
5 STUDY WILL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL GRANT AWARDED ON A PER PUPIL BASIS;  
6 TO PRESCRIBE CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM; TO AUTHORIZE  
7 LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO EXPEND STUDENT READINESS FOR COLLEGE  
8 INCENTIVE GRANT AWARDS FOR ANY AUTHORIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
9 EXPENDITURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) The State Board of Education is hereby  
12 authorized and directed, subject to the availability of funds  
13 specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature, to develop  
14 and implement a Student Readiness for College Incentive Grant  
15 Program, under which the public school district with the highest  
16 percentage of its high school graduates ready for college-level  
17 study will receive an annual grant. The following procedure shall  
18 be utilized by the State Board of Education in making such grant  
19 awards:

20 (a) On or before January 1, 2000, and each year  
21 thereafter, the Commissioner of Higher Education shall report to  
22 the State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the school  
23 districts on the performance of each first-time-in-postsecondary  
24 education student from each public high school in this state who  
25 is enrolled in a state institution of higher learning or  
26 community/junior college. In addition, the universities and  
27 community/junior colleges shall provide school districts access to  
28 information on student performance in regular and preparatory  
29 courses and shall indicate students referred for remediation.

30           (b) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall report,  
31 by high school, to the State Board of Education and the  
32 Legislature, no later than November 31 of each year, on the number  
33 of prior year Mississippi high school graduates who enrolled for  
34 the first time in public postsecondary education in this state  
35 during the previous summer, fall, or spring term, indicating the  
36 number of students referred for remediation through  
37 college-preparatory or vocational-preparatory instruction.

38           (c) The Commissioner of Higher Education shall organize  
39 school summary reports and student-level records by school  
40 district and high school in which the postsecondary education  
41 students were enrolled and report the information to each school  
42 district no later than January 31 of each year. The reports shall  
43 include all the first-time-in-college students who enrolled in a  
44 state institution of higher learning or community/junior college  
45 during the report period and who were granted a high school  
46 diploma during the previous twelve (12) months. The report period  
47 shall be defined as the twelve-month period beginning with the  
48 summer term. The individual student reports shall be listed  
49 alphabetically by student and by school.

50           (d) The report shall identify the school district with  
51 the highest percentage of students ready for college based upon  
52 said information.

53           (2) In the event funds are made available for incentive  
54 grant awards to high-achieving school districts in addition to the  
55 district with the highest readiness for college statistics, grant  
56 awards shall be distributed to school districts on a per-pupil  
57 basis.

58           (3) Local school boards shall be authorized to expend  
59 Student Readiness for College Incentive Grant funds on any lawful  
60 school district expenditure and may seek input from faculty,  
61 parent organizations and the students of the school district on  
62 the proposed use of such grant awards.

63           (4) As part of the accreditation requirements for schools,  
64 the State Board of Education shall ensure that each school  
65 district and high school develops strategies to improve student  
66 readiness for the public postsecondary level based on annual  
67 analysis of the feedback report data provided under this section.

68           (5) The State Board of Education shall make an annual report  
69 to the Legislature on the Student Readiness for College Incentive  
70 Grant Program along with an annual budget request for such awards  
71 and any necessary recommended statutory revisions.

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