

By: Dearing

To: Education; Finance



SENATE BILL NO. 2004

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT
 2 A PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENT/FAMILY
 3 EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO SPECIFY CERTAIN MODELS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE
 4 THROUGH THESE PROGRAMS; TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
 5 ESTABLISH A COUNCIL FOR PARENT/FAMILY EDUCATION SERVICES; TO
 6 ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT
 7 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO HAVE IN PLACE AN ADVISORY BOARD
 8 FOR THE PROGRAMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO USE AVAILABLE
 9 FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE STATE
 10 BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RECOMMEND TO THE LEGISLATURE WHETHER OR NOT
 11 THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED; TO REQUIRE THE
 12 COUNCIL TO DEVELOP A REPORTING PROCESS ON EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD
 13 PROGRAMS IN THE STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY
 14 THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

15 SECTION 1. (1) The State Board of Education, in its
 16 discretion, may develop and implement a pilot program to implement
 17 voluntary in-home parent/family education programs for families
 18 with children aged pre-natal through four (4) years. The
 19 parent/family education programs shall provide parents with
 20 opportunities to voluntarily obtain support and services that will
 21 enable them to provide optimum learning environments for their
 22 children, particularly from birth to the age of four (4) years,
 23 within the home. These programs shall use research-based,
 24 independently-evaluated, proven research models showing the
 25 following outcomes: (a) parents are more confident in their
 26 parenting knowledge and skills; (b) parents who read more to their
 27 children; (c) children with enhanced language, problem-solving and

28 social development; (d) lower incidence of child abuse and
29 neglect; (e) children entering school with increased readiness
30 skills; (f) fewer children placed in special education or remedial
31 classes; (g) more parental involvement when children enter school;
32 and (h) higher scores on standardized reading and math tests in
33 elementary grades. Program outcomes shall be determined through a
34 long-range evaluation that tracks participating children through
35 the third grade.

36 (2) The State Board of Education shall appoint a State
37 Council for Parent/Family Education Services to (a) determine a
38 process for interested school districts and other nonprofit
39 entities to apply for grant funds in order to participate in the
40 programs; (b) monitor program operations; (c) evaluate program
41 effectiveness; and (d) develop rules for the administration of the
42 program. Members of the "council" shall include, but not be
43 limited to, representatives of the following categories: parents;
44 local school districts' parent education programs staff; the
45 Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children's
46 Services; head start; the cooperative extension services and USOE
47 funded parental assistance programs.

48 (3) As part of the application process for participation in
49 the pilot program, applicants must demonstrate to the council that
50 the program is a collaborative undertaking of various community
51 organizations. School districts and other nonprofit entities in
52 partnership with a school district applying for funds shall be
53 required to develop a collaborative plan that includes, but is not
54 limited to, participation of the local extension service, head
55 start, health department, human services and other agencies as
56 deemed by the advisory board in the local development plan.
57 Programs shall be required to provide a twenty-five percent (25%)
58 match. Programs shall be housed in parent/family resource centers

59 developed around existing DHS Families First criteria and the
60 State Department of Education Parent/Family Center guidelines.
61 Parent education programs shall have a broad-based community
62 advisory board including, but not limited to, representatives of
63 the following categories: parents, local school districts' parent
64 education programs staff, DHS-Division of Family and Children's
65 Services, head start/private child care providers, cooperative
66 extension services and State Department of Health.

67 (4) The State Department of Education may accept any funds,
68 public or private, made available to the department for the pilot
69 program. The funds shall be used to award grants to the
70 participating parent/family education services programs for the
71 support of such programs. A parent/family education services
72 program may use any available funding to support the
73 administration of the program.

74 (5) If the parent/family education services pilot programs
75 authorized by this section are implemented, the State Board of
76 Education shall report to the Legislature, within three (3) years
77 after the pilot program's implementation, on the desirability of
78 expanding and permanently establishing the program.

79 (6) The State Council for Parent/Family Education Services
80 shall develop an annual reporting process to inform the
81 Legislature, local school district personnel and the general
82 public as to all programs funded under this section:

83 (a) Number of students and families served;

84 (b) Number of parent educators and other personnel,

85 qualifications, training related to home visit programs and

86 parent/family resource center establishment and experience levels;

- 87 (c) Source of funds for each program;
- 88 (d) Budget, administrative costs and other pertinent
89 fiscal information;
- 90 (e) Salary and fringe benefit information for each
91 employee in the program;
- 92 (f) Cost of materials, training and other instructional
93 costs related to the program;
- 94 (g) Cost of program on a per-family basis;
- 95 (h) Other information as directed by the State Board of
96 Education;
- 97 (i) Advisory board members' names and titles; and
- 98 (j) Analysis of this program's impact on Grades K-3 as
99 indicated in an independent evaluation.

100 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
101 and after July 1, 2000.