

By: Simmons, Blackmon, Turner, Johnson
(38th)

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2331

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT
2 A 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 AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM;
6 TO REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO HAVE IN PLACE AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE
7 PROGRAMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO USE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR
8 GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE A REPORTING PROCESS
9 ON EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN THE STATE; TO ESTABLISH AN
10 IN-HOME PARENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION FUND; AND FOR RELATED
11 PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. (1) The State Board of Education, in its
14 discretion, may offer funds for replication of voluntary
15 parent/family education programs that support and affirm the role
16 of parents as the primary early childhood educator of their
17 children for families with children aged pre-natal through four
18 (4) years, or until entering kindergarten, using personal visits.

19 The 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 or selected site. These programs shall use
24 research-based, independently-evaluated, proven research models
25 showing the following outcomes: (a) children with enhanced

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

36 (2) The State Board of Education shall (a) determine a
37 process for interested school districts and other nonprofit
38 entities in partnership with a school district to apply for grant
39 funds in order to participate in the programs; (b) monitor program
40 operations; (c) evaluate program effectiveness; and (d) develop
41 rules for the administration of the program. In developing the
42 process, the State Board of Education shall utilize, 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. In the event an Interagency
48 Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Services, or similar
49 organization, is established by act of the Legislature, the State
50 Board of Education may contract with such interagency council for
51 the performance of its duties and responsibilities under this act.

52 (3) As part of the application process for participation in
53 the program, applicants must demonstrate to the council that the
54 program is a collaborative undertaking of various community
55 organizations. School districts and other nonprofit entities in
56 partnership with a school district applying for funds shall be

57 required to develop a collaborative plan that includes, but is not
58 limited to, participation of the local extension service, head
59 start, health department, human services and other agencies as
60 deemed by the advisory board in the local development plan.
61 Programs seeking funds under this act shall be required to provide
62 a twenty-five percent (25%) match. Programs shall be housed in
63 parent/family resource centers developed around existing DHS
64 Families First criteria and the State Department of Education
65 Parent/Family Center guidelines. Parent education programs shall
66 have a broad-based community advisory board including, but not
67 limited to, representatives of the following categories: parents,
68 local school districts' parent education programs staff,
69 DHS-Division of Family and Children's Services, head start/private
70 child care providers, cooperative extension services and State
71 Department of Health.

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

79 (5) The State Board of Education shall develop an annual
80 reporting process to inform the Legislature, local school district
81 personnel and the general public as to all programs funded under
82 this section:

83 (a) Number of children 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) Annual program cost, with identification by name
88 and amount of the source of funds for each program;

89 (d) Annual budget, administrative costs and other
90 pertinent fiscal information;

91 (e) Annual salary and fringe benefit information for
92 each employee in the program;

93 (f) Annual cost of materials, training and other
94 instructional costs related to the program;

95 (g) Annual cost of program on a per-family basis;

96 (h) Other information as directed by the State Board of
97 Education;

98 (i) Advisory board members' names and titles; and

99 (j) Analysis of this program's impact on Grades K-3 as
100 indicated in an independent evaluation.

101 (6) The In-home Parent and Family Education Program Fund is
102 established. Funds made available by the Legislature for the
103 support and maintenance of voluntary parent and family education
104 program through personal visits authorized under this act shall be
105 deposited into the fund. Beginning in fiscal year 2001, the State
106 Board of Education shall award grants for not less than one (1)
107 program in each Mississippi congressional district and not more
108 than ten (10) programs with up to four (4) parent educators each
109 in any Mississippi congressional district, and in subsequent
110 fiscal years may award additional program grants subject to the
111 availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor.

112 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

113 and after July 1, 2000.