

By: Harden

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2490

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-9-207 AND 37-9-251, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
3 EDUCATION TO CONTINUE THE APPROVAL, FUNDING AND EVALUATION OF
4 BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAMS AND BEGINNING PRINCIPAL
5 SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAMS WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A FORMAL
6 REAPPLICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 37-9-207, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:[RDD1]

10 37-9-207. Each district that wishes to participate in the
11 beginning teacher support program shall submit a formal
12 application to the Mississippi Teacher Center * * * according to
13 rules of the Mississippi Teacher Center. In the initial
14 application, school districts shall include, at a minimum, the
15 following:

16 (a) The names of all eligible beginning teachers
17 employed by the district and a description of their teaching
18 assignments and extracurricular duties;

19 (b) The names of mentor teachers selected by a district
20 and a description of their teaching assignments and the
21 endorsement area in which they are certified to teach;

22 (c) A description of the content and calendar of the
23 proposed beginning teacher support program. The program must

24 provide a minimum of ninety (90) hours of direct contact between
25 mentor teachers and beginning teachers, including observation of
26 or assistance with classroom teaching, or both, during the school
27 day;

28 (d) A description of the amount and nature of each
29 eligible beginning teacher's classroom and extracurricular duties
30 and assurance that these duties are not unreasonable for a
31 beginning teacher; and

32 (e) A certification that no eligible beginning teacher
33 is or may be misassigned outside the teacher's endorsement area,
34 except as provided for by rules of the Mississippi Teacher Center.

35 The Mississippi Teacher Center is authorized to continue the
36 approval, funding and evaluation of the initial beginning teacher
37 support pilot programs approved by the center, subject to specific
38 appropriation therefor by the Legislature, without the necessity
39 of a formal reapplication by the school district.

40 SECTION 2. Section 37-9-251, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
41 amended as follows:[RDD2]

42 37-9-251. (1) The following words and phrases shall have
43 the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context clearly
44 indicates otherwise:

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

46 (i) Possesses an administrator's license issued by
47 the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,
48 Certification and Licensure and Development;

49 (ii) Is employed as a principal by a public school
50 district; and

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

54 (b) "Formal assistance" means a program provided by a

55 mentor principal to a beginning principal which includes, but is
56 not limited to: direct administrative observation and
57 consultation; assistance in administrative planning and
58 preparation; support in implementation and delivery of principal
59 administrative responsibilities; and support in the administrative
60 functions of school leadership, student psychology, student
61 health, student drug abuse, human relations, multicultural and
62 multiethnic relations, crisis management and other assistance
63 intended to enhance the professional performance and development
64 of the beginning principal.

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

66 (i) Possesses a standard administrative license
67 issued by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,
68 Certification and Licensure and Development;

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

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

74 (iv) Has demonstrated mastery of administrative
75 skills and subject matter knowledge and has been selected and
76 trained as described in this act.

77 (2) The School Executive Management Institute of the State
78 Department of Education shall establish a Beginning Principal
79 Support Pilot Program to provide eligible beginning principals in
80 this state with continued and sustained support from a formally
81 assigned mentor principal during the first full year of principal
82 service.

83 (3) The State Board of Education shall select one (1) school
84 district in each of the five (5) Mississippi congressional
85 districts, pursuant to the application process provided for in
86 this section, to participate in the Beginning Principal Support
87 Pilot Program. Two (2) or more districts may operate jointly a
88 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program if the districts meet
89 all the requirements of this section. School districts may
90 coordinate with institutions of higher learning in the design,
91 implementation and evaluation of mentorship programs. Private
92 educational consortia established for approved principal education
93 programs are eligible to operate a Beginning Principal Support
94 Pilot Program to serve beginning principals in a participating
95 school district.

96 (4) Each district that wishes to participate in the
97 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program shall submit a formal
98 application to the School Executive Management Institute * * * ,
99 according to rules of the institute. In the initial application,
100 districts shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

101 (a) The names of all eligible beginning principals
102 employed by the district and a description of their administrative
103 duties;

104 (b) The names of mentor principals selected by a
105 district and a description of their administrative assignments and
106 endorsements;

107 (c) A description of the content and calendar of the
108 proposed Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program. The program
109 shall provide a minimum of ninety (90) hours of direct contact
110 between mentor principals and beginning principals, including

111 observation or assistance with administrative duties, or both,
112 during the school day; and

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

115 (5) After consulting with representatives of administrators,
116 school boards, schools of education of the institutions of higher
117 learning and such others as it considers appropriate, the School
118 Executive Management Institute shall develop or approve workshops
119 to provide training for mentor principals and beginning
120 principals.

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

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

126 (b) Each mentor principal shall complete successfully a
127 training workshop provided or approved by the School Executive
128 Management Institute in the Beginning Principal Support Pilot
129 Program; and

130 (c) Participating school districts shall be fully
131 authorized to compensate principal mentors, grant release time for
132 principal mentors and employ and compensate substitute
133 administrators for additional duties performed under the beginning
134 principal mentorship program which are in addition to regular
135 school day responsibilities.

136 (7) The School Executive Management Institute shall be
137 responsible for the regular and ongoing evaluation of the
138 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program and may contract for

139 such evaluation. The School Executive Management Institute shall
140 be authorized to continue the approval, funding and evaluation of
141 the initial pilot programs approved by the institute, subject to
142 specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature, without the
143 necessity of a formal reapplication submitted by the school
144 district. The institute shall report to the State Board of
145 Education and the Legislature in the 2003 Regular Session on the
146 desirability of extending this assistance program statewide.

147 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
148 and after July 1, 2000.