

By: Harden

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2490  
(As Passed the Senate)

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.