

By: Farris

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2711

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-19-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE SALARIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO THE
3 SOUTHEASTERN STATES' ESTIMATED AVERAGE OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD; TO
4 AMEND SECTION 37-19-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE
5 MINIMUM PROGRAM ALLOTMENT FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES; TO AMEND
6 SECTION 37-21-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE
7 SALARIES OF ASSISTANT TEACHERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:[CRG1]

11 37-19-7. (1) The allowance in the minimum education program
12 for teachers' salaries in each county and separate school district
13 shall be determined and paid in accordance with the scale for
14 teachers' salaries as provided in this subsection for the number
15 of teachers employed not in excess of the number of teacher units
16 allotted. For teachers holding the following types of licenses or
17 the equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education, and
18 the following number of years of teaching experience, the scale
19 shall be as follows:

20 **2000-2001 School Year**

21 * * *

22 **Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience**

23	AAAA.....	<u>\$26,190.00</u>
24	AAA.....	<u>25,340.00</u>
25	AA.....	<u>24,490.00</u>
26	A.....	<u>23,440.00</u>

27 **25 or More Years of Teaching Experience**

28	AAAA.....	<u>\$27,190.00</u>
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29	AAA.....	26,340.00
30	AA.....	25,490.00
31	A.....	24,440.00

2001-2002 School Year

Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience

34	<u>AAAA.....</u>	<u>\$27,790.00</u>
35	<u>AAA.....</u>	<u>26,740.00</u>
36	<u>AA.....</u>	<u>25,690.00</u>
37	<u>A.....</u>	<u>24,440.00</u>

25 or More Years of Teaching Experience

39	<u>AAAA.....</u>	<u>\$28,790.00</u>
40	<u>AAA.....</u>	<u>27,740.00</u>
41	<u>AA.....</u>	<u>26,690.00</u>
42	<u>A.....</u>	<u>25,440.00</u>

2002-2003 School Year

Less than 25 Years of Teaching Experience

45	<u>AAAA.....</u>	<u>\$30,040.00</u>
46	<u>AAA.....</u>	<u>28,740.00</u>
47	<u>AA.....</u>	<u>27,440.00</u>
48	<u>A.....</u>	<u>25,940.00</u>

25 or More Years of Teaching Experience

50	<u>AAAA.....</u>	<u>\$31,040.00</u>
51	<u>AAA.....</u>	<u>29,740.00</u>
52	<u>AA.....</u>	<u>28,440.00</u>
53	<u>A.....</u>	<u>26,940.00</u>

2003-2004 School Year

and School Years Thereafter

Less than 25 Years of Teaching Experience

57	<u>AAAA.....</u>	<u>\$32,290.00</u>
58	<u>AAA.....</u>	<u>30,740.00</u>
59	<u>AA.....</u>	<u>29,190.00</u>
60	<u>A.....</u>	<u>27,440.00</u>

25 or More Years of Teaching Experience

62	<u>AAAA</u>	<u>\$33,290.00</u>
63	<u>AAA</u>	<u>31,740.00</u>
64	<u>AA</u>	<u>30,190.00</u>
65	<u>A</u>	<u>28,440.00</u>

66 It is the intent of the Legislature that any state funds made
67 available for salaries of licensed personnel in excess of the
68 funds paid for such salaries for the 1986-1987 school year shall
69 be paid to licensed personnel pursuant to a personnel appraisal
70 and compensation system implemented by the State Board of
71 Education. The State Board of Education shall have the authority
72 to adopt and amend rules and regulations as are necessary to
73 establish, administer and maintain the system.

74 All teachers employed on a full-time basis shall be paid a
75 minimum salary in accordance with the above scale. However, no
76 school district shall receive any funds under this section for any
77 school year during which the local supplement paid to any
78 individual teacher shall have been reduced to a sum less than that
79 paid to that individual teacher for performing the same duties
80 from local supplement during the immediately preceding school
81 year. The amount actually spent for the purposes of group health
82 and/or life insurance shall be considered as a part of the
83 aggregate amount of local supplement but shall not be considered
84 a part of the amount of individual local supplement.

85 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
86 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
87 Six Hundred Seventy (\$670.00) for the 2000-2001 school year, Seven
88 Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$770.00) for the 2001-2002 school year,
89 Nine Hundred Five Dollars (\$905.00) for the 2002-2003 school year,
90 and One Thousand Forty Dollars (\$1,040.00) for the 2003-2004
91 school year for each year of teaching experience possessed by the
92 person holding such license until such person shall have
93 twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

94 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base

95 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
96 Six Hundred Five Dollars (\$605.00) for the 2000-2001 school year,
97 Seven Hundred Five Dollars (\$705.00) for the 2001-2002 school
98 year, Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$840.00) for the 2002-2003
99 school year and Nine Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$975.00) for
100 the 2003-2004 school year for each year of teaching experience
101 possessed by the person holding such license until such person
102 shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

103 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
104 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Five
105 Hundred Forty Dollars (\$540.00) for the 2000-2001 school year, Six
106 Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$630.00) for the 2001-2002 school year,
107 Seven Hundred Sixty-five Dollars (\$765.00) for the 2002-2003
108 school year and Nine Hundred Dollars (\$900.00) for the 2003-2004
109 school year for each year of teaching experience possessed by the
110 person holding such license until such person shall have
111 twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

112 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
113 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
114 Hundred Forty-five Dollars (\$445.00) for the 2000-2001 school
115 year, Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$530.00) for the 2001-2002
116 school year, Six Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$630.00) for the
117 2002-2003 school year and Seven Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$730.00)
118 for the 2003-2004 school year for each year of teaching experience
119 possessed by the person holding such license until such person
120 shall have twenty-one (21) years of teaching experience.

121 The level of professional training of each teacher to be used
122 in establishing the salary allotment for the teachers for each
123 year shall be determined by the type of valid teacher's license
124 issued to those teachers on or before October 1 of the current
125 school year.

126 (2) (a) The following employees shall receive an annual
127 salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars

128 (\$6,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other
129 compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

130 (i) Any licensed teacher who has met the
131 requirements and acquired a Master Teacher certificate from the
132 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is
133 employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education
134 as a teacher and not as an administrator. In the 1999-2000 and
135 2000-2001 school year, such teacher shall submit documentation to
136 the State Department of Education that the certificate was
137 received prior to April 15 in order to be eligible for the full
138 salary supplement in the current school year. In the 2001-2002
139 school year and in school years thereafter, such teacher shall
140 submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the
141 certificate was received prior to October 15 in order to be
142 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
143 year, or the teacher shall submit such documentation to the State
144 Department of Education prior to February 15 in order to be
145 eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the
146 second term of the school year.

147 (ii) From and after July 1, 1999, any licensed
148 school counselor who has met the requirements and acquired a
149 National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) endorsement from the
150 National Board of Certified Counselors and who is employed by a
151 local school board or the State Board of Education as a counselor
152 and not as an administrator. Such licensed school counselor
153 shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education
154 that the endorsement was received prior to October 15 in order to
155 be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
156 year, or the licensed school counselor shall submit such
157 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
158 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
159 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
160 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be

161 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
162 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
163 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors,
164 and any school counselor receiving the salary supplement will be
165 required to complete the Master Teacher certificate process under
166 item (i) of this paragraph in order to continue receiving such
167 salary supplement.

168 (iii) From and after July 1, 1999, any licensed
169 speech-language pathologist and audiologist who has met the
170 requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence
171 from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and who is
172 employed by a local school board. Such licensed speech-language
173 pathologist and audiologist shall submit documentation to the
174 State Department of Education that the certificate or endorsement
175 was received prior to October 15 in order to be eligible for the
176 full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed
177 speech-language pathologist and audiologist shall submit such
178 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
179 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
180 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
181 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be
182 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
183 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
184 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school speech
185 pathologists and audiologists, and any school speech pathologist
186 and audiologist receiving the salary supplement will be required
187 to complete the Master Teacher certificate process under item (i)
188 of this paragraph in order to continue receiving such salary
189 supplement.

190 (b) An employee shall be reimbursed one (1) time for
191 the actual cost of completing the process of acquiring the
192 certificate or endorsement, excluding any costs incurred for
193 postgraduate courses, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)

194 for a school counselor or speech-language pathologist and
195 audiologist, regardless of whether or not the process resulted in
196 the award of the certificate or endorsement. A local school
197 district or any private individual or entity may pay the cost of
198 completing the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement
199 for any employee of the school district described under paragraph
200 (a), and the State Department of Education shall reimburse the
201 school district for such cost, regardless of whether or not the
202 process resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement.
203 If a private individual or entity has paid the cost of completing
204 the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for an
205 employee, the local school district may agree to directly
206 reimburse the individual or entity for such cost on behalf of the
207 employee.

208 (c) All salary supplements, fringe benefits and process
209 reimbursement authorized under this subsection shall be paid
210 directly by the State Department of Education to the local school
211 district and shall be in addition to its minimum education program
212 allotments and not a part thereof in accordance with regulations
213 promulgated by the State Board of Education, and subject to
214 appropriation by the Legislature. Local school districts shall
215 not reduce the local supplement paid to any employee receiving
216 such salary supplement, and the employee shall receive any local
217 supplement to which employees with similar training and experience
218 otherwise are entitled.

219 (d) The State Department of Education may not pay any
220 process reimbursement to a school district for an employee who
221 does not complete the certification or endorsement process
222 required to be eligible for the certificate or endorsement. If an
223 employee for whom such cost has been paid in full or in part by a
224 local school district or private individual or entity fails to
225 complete the certification or endorsement process, the employee
226 shall be liable to the school district or individual or entity for

227 all amounts paid by the school district or individual or entity on
228 behalf of that employee toward his or her certificate or
229 endorsement.

230 SECTION 2. Section 37-19-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
231 amended as follows:[CRG2]

232 37-19-21. In addition to other funds allowed in this
233 chapter, each school district shall be allotted Five Thousand
234 Eighty-five (\$5,085.00) for the 2000-2001 school year, Five
235 Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$5,630.00) for the 2001-2002
236 school year, Six Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-seven Dollars
237 (\$6,397.00) for the 2002-2003 school year, and Seven Thousand One
238 Hundred Sixty-four Dollars (\$7,164.00) for the 2003-2004 school
239 year annually per teacher unit for use in supportive services.

240 This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2002.

241 SECTION 3. Section 37-21-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
242 amended as follows:[CRG3]

243 **[Until July 1, 2002, this section will read as follows:]**

244 37-21-7. (1) This section shall be referred to as the
245 "Mississippi Elementary Schools Assistant Teacher Program," the
246 purpose of which shall be to provide an early childhood education
247 program that assists in the instruction of basic skills. The
248 State Board of Education is authorized, empowered and directed to
249 implement a statewide system of assistant teachers in kindergarten
250 classes and in the first, second and third grades. The assistant
251 teacher shall assist pupils in actual instruction under the strict
252 supervision of a licensed teacher.

253 (2) (a) Each school district shall employ the total number
254 of assistant teachers funded under subsection (6) of this section.
255 The superintendent of each district shall assign the assistant
256 teachers to the kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade
257 classes in the district in a manner that will promote the maximum
258 efficiency, as determined by the superintendent, in the
259 instruction of skills such as verbal and linguistic skills,

260 logical and mathematical skills, and social skills.

261 (b) If a licensed teacher to whom an assistant teacher
262 has been assigned is required to be absent from the classroom, the
263 assistant teacher may assume responsibility for the classroom in
264 lieu of a substitute teacher. However, no assistant teacher shall
265 assume sole responsibility of the classroom for more than three
266 (3) consecutive school days. Further, in no event shall any
267 assistant teacher be assigned to serve as a substitute teacher for
268 any teacher other than the licensed teacher to whom that assistant
269 teacher has been assigned.

270 (3) Assistant teachers shall have, at a minimum, a high
271 school diploma and shall show demonstratable proficiency in
272 reading and writing skills. The State Department of Education
273 shall develop a testing procedure for assistant teacher applicants
274 to be used in all school districts in the state.

275 (4) (a) In order to receive funding, each school district
276 shall:

277 (i) Submit a plan on the implementation of a
278 reading improvement program to the State Department of Education;
279 and

280 (ii) Develop a plan of educational accountability
281 and assessment of performance, including pretests and posttests,
282 for reading in Grades 1 through 6.

283 (b) Additionally, each school district shall:

284 (i) Provide annually a mandatory preservice
285 orientation session, using an existing in-school service day, for
286 administrators and teachers on the effective use of assistant
287 teachers as part of a team in the classroom setting and on the
288 role of assistant teachers, with emphasis on program goals;

289 (ii) Hold periodic workshops for administrators
290 and teachers on the effective use and supervision of assistant
291 teachers;

292 (iii) Provide training annually on specific

293 instructional skills for assistant teachers;

294 (iv) Annually evaluate their program in accordance
295 with their educational accountability and assessment of
296 performance plan; and

297 (v) Designate the necessary personnel to supervise
298 and report on their program.

299 (5) The State Department of Education shall:

300 (a) Develop and assist in the implementation of a
301 statewide uniform training module, subject to the availability of
302 funds specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature, which
303 shall be used in all school districts for training administrators,
304 teachers and assistant teachers. The module shall provide for the
305 consolidated training of each assistant teacher and teacher to
306 whom the assistant teacher is assigned, working together as a
307 team, and shall require further periodical training for
308 administrators, teachers and assistant teachers regarding the role
309 of assistant teachers;

310 (b) Annually evaluate the program on the district and
311 state level. Subject to the availability of funds specifically
312 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the department shall
313 develop: (i) uniform evaluation reports, to be performed by the
314 principal or assistant principal, to collect data for the annual
315 overall program evaluation conducted by the department; or (ii) a
316 program evaluation model that, at a minimum, addresses process
317 evaluation; and

318 (c) Promulgate rules, regulations and such other
319 standards deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
320 section. Noncompliance with the provisions of this section and
321 any rules, regulations or standards adopted by the department may
322 result in a violation of compulsory accreditation standards as
323 established by the State Board of Education and Commission on
324 School Accreditation.

325 (6) In addition to other funds allotted under the Minimum

326 Education Program, each school district shall be allotted Nine
327 Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four Dollars (\$9,274.00) for the
328 2000-2001 school year, Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-eight
329 Dollars (\$9,988.00) for the 2001-2002 school year, Ten Thousand
330 Nine Hundred Ninety-three Dollars (\$10,993.00) for the 2002-2003
331 school year, and Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-eight Dollars
332 (\$11,998.00) for the 2003-2004 school year per teacher unit as
333 prescribed in Section 37-19-5 for Grades 1, 2 and 3 for the
334 purpose of employing an assistant teacher. Assistant teachers
335 shall be paid a minimum annual salary of Nine Thousand Two Hundred
336 Seventy-four Dollars (\$9,274.00) for the 2000-2001 school year,
337 Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-eight Dollars (\$9,988.00) for
338 the 2001-2002 school year, Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-three
339 Dollars (\$10,993.00) for the 2002-2003 school year, and Eleven
340 Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-eight Dollars (\$11,998.00) for the
341 2003-2004 school year. However, no assistant teacher shall be
342 paid less than the amount he or she received in the prior school
343 year. In the 1995-1996 school year and school years thereafter,
344 no school district shall receive any funds under this section for
345 any school year during which the aggregate amount of the local
346 contribution to the salaries of assistant teachers by the district
347 shall have been reduced below such amount for the previous year.
348 The assistant teachers shall not be restricted to working only in
349 the grades for which the funds were allotted, but may be assigned
350 to other classes as provided in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

351 (7) (a) As an alternative to employing assistant teachers,
352 the State Board of Education may authorize any school district
353 meeting Level 3, 4 or 5 accreditation requirements to use the
354 minimum program allotment provided under subsection (6) of this
355 section for the purpose of employing licensed teachers for
356 kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade classes; however, no
357 school district shall be authorized to use the minimum program
358 allotment for assistant teachers for the purpose of employing

359 licensed teachers unless the district has established that the
360 employment of licensed teachers using such funds will reduce the
361 teacher:student ratio in the kindergarten, first-, second- and
362 third-grade classes. All minimum program funds for assistant
363 teachers shall be applied to reducing teacher:student ratio in
364 Grades K-3.

365 It is the intent of the Legislature that no school district
366 shall dismiss any assistant teacher for the purpose of using the
367 minimum program assistant teacher allotment to employ licensed
368 teachers. School districts may rely only upon normal attrition to
369 reduce the number of assistant teachers employed in that district.

370 (b) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5
371 accreditation requirements, the State Board of Education, in its
372 discretion, may exempt such school district from any accreditation
373 requirements for the district's early childhood education program
374 or reading improvement program.

375 **[From and after July 1, 2002, this section reads as follows:]**

376 37-21-7. (1) This section shall be referred to as the
377 "Mississippi Elementary Schools Assistant Teacher Program," the
378 purpose of which shall be to provide an early childhood education
379 program that assists in the instruction of basic skills. The
380 State Board of Education is authorized, empowered and directed to
381 implement a statewide system of assistant teachers in kindergarten
382 classes and in the first, second and third grades. The assistant
383 teacher shall assist pupils in actual instruction under the strict
384 supervision of a certified teacher.

385 (2) (a) Each school district shall employ the total number
386 of assistant teachers funded under subsection (6) of this section.
387 The superintendent of each district shall assign the assistant
388 teachers to the kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade
389 classes in the district in a manner that will promote the maximum
390 efficiency, as determined by the superintendent, in the
391 instruction of skills such as verbal and linguistic skills,

392 logical and mathematical skills, and social skills.

393 (b) If a certified teacher to whom an assistant teacher
394 has been assigned is required to be absent from the classroom, the
395 assistant teacher may assume responsibility for the classroom in
396 lieu of a substitute teacher. However, no assistant teacher shall
397 assume sole responsibility of the classroom for more than three
398 (3) consecutive school days. Further, in no event shall any
399 assistant teacher be assigned to serve as a substitute teacher for
400 any teacher other than the certified teacher to whom that
401 assistant teacher has been assigned.

402 (3) Assistant teachers shall have, at a minimum, a high
403 school diploma or a GED equivalent, and shall show demonstratable
404 proficiency in reading and writing skills. The State Department
405 of Education shall develop a testing procedure for assistant
406 teacher applicants to be used in all school districts in the
407 state.

408 (4) (a) In order to receive funding, each school district
409 shall:

410 (i) Submit a plan on the implementation of a
411 reading improvement program to the State Department of Education;
412 and

413 (ii) Develop a plan of educational accountability
414 and assessment of performance, including pretests and posttests,
415 for reading in Grades 1 through 6.

416 (b) Additionally, each school district shall:

417 (i) Provide annually a mandatory preservice
418 orientation session, using an existing in-school service day, for
419 administrators and teachers on the effective use of assistant
420 teachers as part of a team in the classroom setting and on the
421 role of assistant teachers, with emphasis on program goals;

422 (ii) Hold periodic workshops for administrators
423 and teachers on the effective use and supervision of assistant
424 teachers;

425 (iii) Provide training annually on specific
426 instructional skills for assistant teachers;

427 (iv) Annually evaluate their program in accordance
428 with their educational accountability and assessment of
429 performance plan; and

430 (v) Designate the necessary personnel to supervise
431 and report on their program.

432 (5) The State Department of Education shall:

433 (a) Develop and assist in the implementation of a
434 statewide uniform training module, subject to the availability of
435 funds specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature, which
436 shall be used in all school districts for training administrators,
437 teachers and assistant teachers. The module shall provide for the
438 consolidated training of each assistant teacher and teacher to
439 whom the assistant teacher is assigned, working together as a
440 team, and shall require further periodical training for
441 administrators, teachers and assistant teachers regarding the role
442 of assistant teachers;

443 (b) Annually evaluate the program on the district and
444 state level. Subject to the availability of funds specifically
445 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the department shall
446 develop: (i) uniform evaluation reports, to be performed by the
447 principal or assistant principal, to collect data for the annual
448 overall program evaluation conducted by the department; or (ii) a
449 program evaluation model that, at a minimum, addresses process
450 evaluation; and

451 (c) Promulgate rules, regulations and such other
452 standards deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
453 section. Noncompliance with the provisions of this section and
454 any rules, regulations or standards adopted by the department may
455 result in a violation of compulsory accreditation standards as
456 established by the State Board of Education and Commission on
457 School Accreditation.

458 (6) No assistant teacher shall be paid less than the amount
459 he or she received in the prior school year. In the 1995-1996
460 school year and school years thereafter, no school district shall
461 receive any funds under this section for any school year during
462 which the aggregate amount of the local contribution to the
463 salaries of assistant teachers by the district shall have been
464 reduced below such amount for the previous year. The assistant
465 teachers shall not be restricted to working only in the grades for
466 which the funds were allotted, but may be assigned to other
467 classes as provided in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

468 (7) (a) As an alternative to employing assistant teachers,
469 the State Board of Education may authorize any school district
470 meeting Level 3, 4 or 5 accreditation requirements to use the
471 adequate education program allotments for the purpose of employing
472 certified teachers for kindergarten, first-, second- and
473 third-grade classes; however, no school district shall be
474 authorized to use the funds for assistant teachers for the purpose
475 of employing certified teachers unless the district has
476 established that the employment of certified teachers using such
477 funds will reduce the teacher:student ratio in the kindergarten,
478 first-, second- and third-grade classes. All adequate education
479 program funds for assistant teachers shall be applied to reducing
480 teacher:student ratio in Grades K-3.

481 It is the intent of the Legislature that no school district
482 shall dismiss any assistant teacher for the purpose of using state
483 funds to employ certified teachers. School districts may rely
484 only upon normal attrition to reduce the number of assistant
485 teachers employed in that district.

486 (b) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5
487 accreditation requirements, the State Board of Education, in its
488 discretion, may exempt such school district from any accreditation
489 requirements for the district's early childhood education program
490 or reading improvement program.

491 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
492 and after July 1, 2000.