AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ESTABLISH A
VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH STUDENTS MAY
RECEIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION FOR VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE; TO
PROVIDE THAT STUDENTS IN THE VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE CORE CURRICULUM DEFINED BY THE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MAY EARN ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR
PARTICIPATION IN THE VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP; AND FOR RELATED
PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The school board of a local school district,
in its discretion, may establish and implement a vocational
apprenticeship program in the high schools in that district
through which students may earn high school units for vocational
experience as an alternative to those high school units required
by the school district in addition to the core curriculum defined
by the State Board of Education. The purpose of a vocational
apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section shall
be to provide those students with skills and training that will
lead to gainful employment in a trade or other specialized
vocation.

(2) Students who participate in the vocational
apprenticeship program shall be required to complete all high
school units comprising the core curriculum, as defined by the
State Board of Education. In addition, a student in the
vocational apprenticeship program may be awarded credit for an
additional eight (8) high school units earned through the
vocational apprenticeship program, which units shall apply toward,
and must be recognized by the State Board of Education in
fulfillment of, the local school district's graduation

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requirements. Units may be awarded in the vocational apprenticeship program, whereby a student gains actual work experience through employment in a job approved by the local school district. The local school district shall adopt policies governing the participation of students in the vocational apprenticeship program.

(3) Students successfully completing a vocational apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section are entitled to a diploma evidencing graduation from a high school in Mississippi.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.