

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 824

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A
 2 TRIMESTER SCHOOL YEAR PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO
 3 SELECT UP TO TWELVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
 4 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO REPORT TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE
 5 EDUCATION COMMITTEES BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2004, ON THE RESULTS OF THE
 6 PILOT PROGRAM AND THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A TRIMESTER
 7 CALENDAR IN ALL MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD
 8 TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR, WHICH MUST BE NO LESS
 9 THAN 225 DAYS, FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT
 10 PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE CORE CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
 11 DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD
 12 TO INCREASE THE ADEQUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM ALLOTMENT TO SCHOOL
 13 DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION
 14 37-13-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE
 15 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 SECTION 1. (1) The State Board of Education shall establish
 18 a Trimester School Year Pilot Program to determine the feasibility
 19 and desirability of implementing a trimester school year in all
 20 public school districts in the state.

21 (2) During the 2001-2002 school year, the State Board of
 22 Education shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation
 23 of the pilot program and an application process for interested
 24 school districts to apply for participation in the pilot program.
 25 The board may select up to twelve (12) eligible school districts
 26 in which the trimester school year calendar shall be implemented.
 27 In selecting participants for the program, the board shall
 28 endeavor to include school districts representative of all
 29 Mississippi school districts, with consideration given to factors
 30 including, but not necessarily limited to, each applying school
 31 district's: size; accreditation level; urban or rural nature;
 32 demographic profile; and geographical location. At least one (1)
 33 school district in each congressional district, as those districts



34 exist on July 1, 2001, must be selected for participation in the
35 pilot program unless no application is received by the board from
36 an eligible school district within a particular congressional
37 district.

38 (3) School districts participating in the Trimester School
39 Year Pilot Program must agree to adhere to the trimester school
40 year calendar adopted by the State Board of Education for the
41 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years.

42 (4) Before January 1, 2004, the State Board of Education
43 shall submit a report to the Chairmen of the Education Committees
44 of the House of Representatives and Senate on the results of the
45 Trimester School Year Pilot Program. The report must include
46 recommendations on whether or not the trimester calendar should be
47 implemented on a permanent basis in all or certain public school
48 districts of the state.

49 SECTION 2. The State Board of Education shall establish a
50 school year calendar to be observed by those school districts
51 participating in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program. The
52 opening day of the school term must be the Tuesday immediately
53 succeeding the first Monday of September (National Memorial Day).
54 Each trimester must consist of no less than seventy-five (75) days
55 in which students and teachers are in regular attendance for
56 scheduled school work. Upon the conclusion of each trimester,
57 there shall be a break of no less than fifteen (15) calendar days;
58 however, the State Board of Education may designate a total of
59 fourteen (14) days during the breaks as teacher work days or
60 in-service training days. The complete scholastic year for school
61 districts participating in the pilot program must be no less than
62 two hundred twenty-five (225) days. The State Board of Education
63 shall designate the legal holidays that may be observed in school
64 districts participating in the pilot program.

65 SECTION 3. (1) The core curriculum for students in the
66 fourth through twelfth grades in the school districts



67 participating in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program shall
68 consist of the following five (5) core courses, each consisting of
69 a minimum of eighteen (18) trimester units of developmental,
70 content-mastery instruction:

71 (a) Language Arts -- Reading Recognition, Reading
72 Comprehension, Spelling, Grammar, Written Expression and
73 Literature;

74 (b) Math -- Math Calculations, Math Reasoning, Business
75 Math, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry and Calculus;

76 (c) Foreign Language -- Written Expression, Verbal
77 Expression and Literature;

78 (d) Social Studies:

79 (i) Eighth and ninth grades -- World History,
80 consisting of four (4) trimesters with each course following an
81 established timeline and incorporating major social, political and
82 economic issues for South and Central America, North America, the
83 Far East, the Middle East, Africa, Australia and Europe, with all
84 courses to include related geography segments;

85 (ii) Tenth and eleventh grades -- American
86 History, consisting of two (2) trimesters from the Indigenous
87 People through the Civil War and two (2) trimesters from the Civil
88 War to the present; and

89 (iii) Twelfth grade -- United States Government
90 and two (2) trimesters of Current Political and Social Issues; and

91 (e) Science -- Earth Science, Biology, Zoology,
92 Chemistry and Physics.

93 (2) In each school in those school districts participating
94 in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program, the content area
95 teachers shall develop skill progression-based course outlines
96 identifying the primary and secondary data to be mastered. The
97 principal of the school shall collate and assimilate the
98 information into one (1) outline, which shall be forwarded to the
99 school district's central office. The local school board then



100 shall collate and assimilate the data gathered from the various
101 schools in that school district into one (1) outline to be
102 submitted to the State Department of Education. The State
103 Department of Education shall collate and assimilate the data
104 gathered from the various school districts participating in the
105 pilot program into one (1) outline. The department shall submit
106 the final outline to a panel of university and college educators
107 for revision.

108 (3) The State Department of Education shall provide
109 standardized tests for the core curriculum defined in this
110 section. Local school districts shall administer the standardized
111 tests in particular subject areas to all students in the public
112 schools on the same day, as designated by the State Department of
113 Education. In administering the tests, a classroom teacher may
114 not be permitted to monitor the testing of that teacher's
115 students. All tests shall be scored by machine, and the test
116 results may be posted only in a pass or fail format.

117 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish the number
118 of hours of actual teaching which constitutes a school day in
119 those school districts participating in the Trimester School Year
120 Pilot Program. The number of hours of each school day must be
121 sufficient to satisfy the core curriculum requirements established
122 in this section.

123 SECTION 4. In order to sufficiently fund school districts
124 participating in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program, the
125 State Board of Education shall increase the annual funding for the
126 participating school districts under the Mississippi Adequate
127 Education Program by an amount determined by the following
128 formula: The annual allocation to the particular school district
129 under the Mississippi Adequate Education Program shall be divided
130 by the average number of days that teachers and students are in
131 actual attendance in all Mississippi school districts that are not
132 participating in the pilot program. This sum, which represents



133 the Mississippi Adequate Education Program daily allotment, shall
134 be multiplied by the difference between two hundred twenty-five
135 (225) and the average number of days that teachers and students
136 are in actual attendance in all Mississippi school districts that
137 are not participating in the pilot program. The result of the
138 last calculation shall be added to the annual allocation to the
139 particular school district under the Mississippi Adequate
140 Education Program.

141 SECTION 5. Section 37-13-67, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
142 amended as follows:

143 37-13-67. Except as otherwise provided under Section 3 of
144 this act for school districts participating in the Trimester
145 School Year Pilot Programming, twenty (20) days of actual teaching
146 in which both teachers and pupils are in regular attendance for
147 scheduled school work shall constitute a scholastic month. The
148 number of hours of actual teaching which shall constitute a school
149 day in any school district not participating in that pilot program
150 shall be determined and fixed by the board of trustees of the
151 school district at not less than five (5) hours nor more than
152 eight (8) hours.

153 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
154 and after July 1, 2001.

