

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2035

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DIRECT THE STATE BOARD TO USE CERTAIN CATEGORIES FOR DESIGNATING  
3 THE PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER THE  
4 "MISSISSIPPI REPORT CARD"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-3-53. Each school year, the State Board of Education,  
9 acting through the Office of Educational Accountability, shall  
10 develop a public school reporting system, or "Mississippi Report  
11 Card," on the performance of students and schools at the local,  
12 district and state level. The Mississippi Report Card shall use  
13 the following categories for designating the performance of  
14 schools and school districts: Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable,  
15 Below Average and Low-Performing. In developing the report card,  
16 the Office of Educational Accountability shall collect school,  
17 district and state level student achievement data in the  
18 appropriate grades as designated by the State Board of Education  
19 in all core subjects, and compare the data with national standards  
20 to identify students' strengths and weaknesses. The Mississippi  
21 Report Card shall provide more than reports to parents on the  
22 level at which their children are performing; the report shall  
23 provide clear and comparable public information on the level at  
24 which schools, school districts and the state public education  
25 system are performing. The Office of Educational Accountability  
26 shall encourage local school districts and the general public to  
27 use Mississippi Report Card information along with local  
28 individual student data to assess the quality of instructional



29 programs and the performance of schools and to plan and implement  
30 programs of instructional improvement.

31 Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, the Mississippi  
32 Report Card shall include information, as compiled by the Office  
33 of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement, which demonstrates  
34 clearly the absenteeism and dropout rates in each school district  
35 and the state and whether those rates reflect a positive or  
36 negative change from the same information as reported in the  
37 previous year's Mississippi Report Card.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
39 and after July 1, 2002.

