

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2045

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE 4TH GRADE TO  
2 BE ASSESSED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF READING SKILLS, AND TO REQUIRE  
3 A PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR THOSE FOUND NOT TO BE READING AT THE  
4 APPROPRIATE GRADE LEVEL; TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN,  
5 TO PROVIDE FOR SCHOOL READING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES, TO PROVIDE  
6 FOR TUTORING AND TO PROVIDE THAT COPIES OF THE ASSESSMENT SHALL BE  
7 MADE PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORD OF EACH STUDENT; AND FOR RELATED  
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** The purpose of this act is to ensure that each  
11 child attains the necessary reading skills by completion of the  
12 Fourth Grade which will enable that student to continue  
13 development of reading skills and to succeed throughout school and  
14 life.

15 **SECTION 2.** (1) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year,  
16 each student enrolled in Fourth Grade of the public schools of  
17 this state shall be assessed by multiple on-going assessments for  
18 the acquisition of reading skills for the grade level in which  
19 that student is enrolled. Before the close of the current school  
20 year, any student, except for students who are on an  
21 individualized education program or have limited English  
22 proficiency, found not to be reading at the appropriate grade  
23 level shall be provided a reading assessment plan which will  
24 include a program of instruction in reading designed to enable the  
25 student to acquire the appropriate grade level of reading skills.  
26 The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

27 (a) Sufficient additional in-school instructional time  
28 for the development of reading and comprehension skills of the  
29 student;



30 (b) If necessary, tutorial instruction after regular  
31 school hours, on Saturdays and during summer; and

32 (c) Utilization of teaching methodologies, including  
33 phonics and other methodologies in wide practice, as is determined  
34 appropriate by the reading assessment committee.

35 The student shall be reassessed at the conclusion of the  
36 program of instruction. The program of instruction shall continue  
37 until the student is determined to be reading at or above grade  
38 level. The student may continue to progress to the next grade  
39 level while the tutorial reading instruction continues.

40 (2) Each school site shall establish a committee composed of  
41 educators which, if possible, shall include a certified reading  
42 specialist to determine the reading assessment plan for each  
43 student for whom one is necessary. A parent or guardian of the  
44 student shall be included in the development of the reading  
45 assessment plan for that student. Every school district shall  
46 adopt and annually update a district plan which includes a plan  
47 for each site and which outlines how each school site will comply  
48 with the provisions of this act.

49 (3) For any Fourth Grade student not reading at that grade  
50 level as determined by multiple assessments, including a  
51 nationally recognized reading assessment given mid-year, a new  
52 reading assessment plan shall be developed as specified in this  
53 section and implemented. In addition to other requirements of  
54 this act, the plan shall include specialized tutoring and may  
55 include a recommendation as to whether the student should be  
56 retained in the Fourth Grade at the close of that year.

57 (4) Copies of the results of the assessment administered  
58 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be made a part of  
59 the permanent record of each student until the student is reading  
60 on grade level so that the results of the next grade level  
61 assessment can be measured against the previous grade level  
62 results.



63           **SECTION 3.** Pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature  
64 specifically for such purpose, the State Department of Education  
65 shall provide in-service training, computer software and certified  
66 reading instructor personnel for training local school district  
67 certificated personnel to assist students and otherwise implement  
68 the provisions of this act.

69           **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
70 and after July 1, 2002.

