

By: Representative Fleming

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 248

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SCHOOL TESTING RIGHT TO KNOW ACT, WHICH  
2 PROVIDES POLICYMAKERS AND THE PUBLIC WITH ACCURATE INFORMATION  
3 WITH WHICH TO MAKE FUTURE DECISIONS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF  
4 EDUCATION POLICY IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "School Testing  
8 Right to Know Act."

9 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature finds that:

10 (a) The federal No Child Left Behind Act aims to  
11 dramatically increase the use and importance of primary and  
12 secondary school standardized tests.

13 (b) Standardized test scores do not accurately assess  
14 the causes of low student achievement; instead, they distract  
15 attention from the major causes of low academic performance,  
16 poverty and the lack of resources available to meet low-income  
17 students' needs.

18 (c) When standardized test scores are released to the  
19 public, policymakers, parents and taxpayers have the right to know  
20 all relevant data relating to these scores.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act is intended to provide policymakers and  
22 the public with accurate information with which to make future  
23 decisions about the direction of education policy in the State of  
24 Mississippi.

25 **SECTION 4.** No agency, department, institution or political  
26 subdivision of the state, or any other governmental entity within  
27 the state, shall release any school-by-school or  
28 district-by-district listing of primary or secondary school

29 standardized test scores to the public without simultaneously  
30 listing the following information for the same schools or  
31 districts:

32 (a) Percentage of students who qualify for free or  
33 reduced-price meals;

34 (b) Student mobility rate, that is, a measure of  
35 students who enter or leave a school during the school year;

36 (c) Per-student expenditure by school, not including  
37 district-wide administrative costs;

38 (d) Average class size;

39 (e) For students who enter a school after Grade 3, the  
40 percentage whose skills are assessed at below basic upon entering  
41 the school; and

42 (f) Percentage of students who qualify for special  
43 education services.

44 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2004.