

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 483

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, 2007, 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) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
22 regulations for the implementation of the pilot program during the  
23 2004-2005 school year and for an application process for  
24 interested school districts to apply for participation in the  
25 pilot program. The board may select up to twelve (12) eligible  
26 school districts in which the trimester school year calendar will  
27 be implemented. In selecting participants for the program, the  
28 board shall endeavor to include school districts representative of  
29 all Mississippi school districts, with consideration given to  
30 factors including, but not necessarily limited to, each applying  
31 school district's size; accreditation level; urban or rural  
32 nature; demographic profile; and geographical location. At least  
33 one (1) school district in each congressional district, as those

34 districts exist on July 1, 2004, must be selected for  
35 participation in the pilot program unless no application is  
36 received by the board from an eligible school district within a  
37 particular congressional 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 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years.

42 (4) Before January 1, 2007, 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 must 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 must 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 will 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, will  
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 will 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 Program, twenty (20) days of actual teaching in  
146 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, 2004.