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To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1550

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADOPT POLICIES
2 AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THEIR DAILY CURRICULUM, WEEKLY HOMEWORK
3 ASSIGNMENTS, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, DRESS CODES, SCHOOL HOLIDAYS,
4 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AND A SCHOOL SYLLABUS; TO PROVIDE THAT
5 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE SAME DISTRICTS PROVIDE FOR THE SAME
6 TYPE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of every school district
9 having a Level 3 or lower accreditation rating shall adopt
10 policies and procedures regarding their daily curriculum, weekly
11 homework assignments, parental involvement, dress codes, school
12 holidays, parent/teacher conferences and a school syllabus. The
13 policies and procedures shall include, but are not limited to, the
14 following:

15 (a) Every child shall be assigned daily homework
16 assignments;

17 (b) Every child shall be taught to write in proper
18 manuscript and cursive lettering, which shall be reinforced
19 through weekend homework assignments at every grade level;

20 (c) Every child shall be assigned a daily reading
21 assignment;

22 (d) Every child shall be assigned a daily written
23 assignment to accompany the daily reading assignment to assess the
24 reading comprehension level of the child;

25 (e) Every child shall be assigned a minimum of five (5)
26 words per week in each subject area to learn to spell, define and
27 use in a sentence, which shall be used to assess the child's
28 retention of the assignment;

29 (f) Every child shall be assigned a minimum of one (1)
30 book to read per subject each month and shall write a short report
31 on the subject matter of the book, which shall be used to assess
32 the child's learning ability. Children in primary grades may be
33 allowed to draw pictures, elaborate orally or use any other
34 alternative method to tell about their books;

35 (g) Every parent or guardian of a child shall
36 participate in one (1) supportive service for the school district,
37 such as watching the bus stop, working the concession stand for an
38 athletic event, chaperoning a school sponsored event, serving the
39 Parent Teacher Association, or serving as a mentor, resource
40 officer or tutor;

41 (h) Every teacher shall dress in a professional manner,
42 which does not include wearing blue jeans, denim jeans or tee
43 shirts;

44 (i) Every child shall be required to dress in school
45 uniforms;

46 (j) The school districts shall provide for only the
47 following school holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving Holidays,
48 Christmas Holidays, New Year's Holidays, Dr. Martin Luther King,
49 Jr., Holiday, Spring Break and Good Friday. There shall be no
50 more permanent early release days;

51 (k) Staff development training shall not be held during
52 the use of regular school days; however, the staff development
53 training may be offered after the regular school day has been
54 completed. The staff development training shall be relevant to
55 the teaching experience and beneficial to the teacher, student and
56 district as a whole;

57 (l) Parent/teacher conferences shall be held at the
58 middle of the nine (9) week term only with the parent and child
59 who has not mastered his or her course work for the mid-term or if
60 the child has demonstrated bad citizenship;

61 (m) The school district shall provide a syllabus for
62 each nine (9) weeks with the homework assignments posted for each
63 subject. The syllabus shall contain an agreement that the parent
64 or guardian shall be required to sign stating that they understand
65 the child has daily homework assignments and that they have
66 received a document outlining their child's work assignments and
67 the due dates of the assignments; and

68 (n) The school district shall post the syllabus on the
69 school district website, if one is available. If a student loses
70 his or her syllabus, the school district may charge a fee of not
71 more than Twenty-five Cents (25¢) per individual sheet to copy and
72 replace the document.

73 (2) Alternative school programs in school districts having a
74 Level 3 or lower accreditation rating shall adopt the same
75 policies as provided in subsection (1) of this section. Students
76 attending an alternative school shall attend school for no less
77 than eight (8) hours per day and shall attend school on Saturday
78 for no less than eight (8) hours per day. At these alternative
79 schools, Saturday shall be known as "Attitude Adjustment Day."
80 Each Saturday, the school districts shall arrange to have retired
81 military, first responders, volunteer mentors, ministers, parents
82 and any other community volunteers attend school with the
83 alternative school students and share their skills and knowledge
84 with the students, encouraging them to become better students and
85 citizens. In addition, the school district may provide that on
86 Saturdays, students may participate in community service programs
87 to help build character and concern for their own school, family,
88 neighborhood and community.

89 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
90 and after July 1, 2004.