

By: Representative Fleming

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 150

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, 2005.