

By: Senator(s) Simmons, Chaney

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2302

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH LEVEL 3 OR LOWER
 2 ACCREDITATION RATING TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING
 3 THEIR DAILY CURRICULUM, WEEKLY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, PARENTAL
 4 INVOLVEMENT, DRESS CODES, SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, PARENT/TEACHER
 5 CONFERENCES AND SCHOOL SYLLABI TO REDUCE THE AT-RISK PUPIL
 6 POPULATION; TO PROVIDE THAT ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS IN THE SAME
 7 DISTRICTS PROVIDE FOR THE SAME TYPE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; AND
 8 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

18 (a) Every child shall be assigned daily homework
 19 assignments;

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

23 (c) Every child shall be assigned a daily reading
 24 assignment;

25 (d) Every child shall be assigned a daily written
 26 assignment to accompany the daily reading assignment to assess the
 27 reading comprehension level of the child;

28 (e) Every child shall be assigned a minimum of five (5)
 29 words per week in each subject area to learn to spell, define and

30 use in a sentence, which shall be used to assess the child's
31 retention of the assignment;

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

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

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

47 (i) Every child shall be required to dress in school
48 uniforms;

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

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

60 (l) Parent/teacher conferences shall be held at the
61 middle of the nine-week term only with the parent and child who

62 has not mastered his or her course work for the mid-term or if the
63 child has demonstrated bad citizenship;

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

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

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

92 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2005.