

By: Senator(s) Wilemon

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2044

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ANY STUDENT MAINTAINING MINIMUM
2 PROFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR PROMOTION ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL
3 SCHOOL BOARD MAY PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED ATHLETICS; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, any
7 student in Grades 7 through 12 enrolled in a public school of this
8 state shall be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored
9 athletic program if that student maintains at least the minimum
10 student proficiency standards for promotion to the appropriate
11 grade level as established by the local school board. Minimum
12 standards and procedures for students participating in
13 school-sponsored athletic activities are as follows:

14 (a) At the end of each semester, the student must have
15 maintained at least the minimum student proficiency standards for
16 promotion to the next grade level as established by the local
17 school board, with no more than one (1) failing grade.

18 (b) Any student that does not maintain at least the
19 minimum student proficiency standards shall be placed on probation
20 status for the next semester, and any student that has two (2)
21 consecutive semesters on probation status shall be ineligible for
22 school-sponsored athletic participation until such time as the
23 student completes a semester with the minimum proficiency level.

24 (c) Students suspended from school are ineligible for
25 participation in any school-sponsored athletic activities or
26 practice during the period of suspension.

27 (d) The local school board shall establish a procedure
28 for monitoring a student's eligibility including setting dates for
29 eligibility checks and probation weeks.

30 (e) Students are allowed to participate in
31 nonschool-sponsored athletic activities, competitions, camps and
32 clinics at any time during the school year and summer, unless
33 prohibited by local school board policies. Student participation
34 in a nonschool activity shall not be a prerequisite to
35 participation in a school-sponsored athletic activity.

36 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after its passage.