

By: Representatives Scott, Burnett, Espy,
Gibbs, Harrison, Huddleston (30th),
Middleton, Thomas

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 954

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
2 ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO BE KNOWN AS "A BETTER CHANCE" OR THE "ABC
3 PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRE-KINDERGARTEN INSTRUCTION
4 THROUGHOUT THE STATE VIA THE INTERNET; TO REQUIRE THE PROGRAM TO
5 INCLUDE CERTAIN COMPONENTS, INCLUDING THE DAILY DELIVERY OF
6 REAL-TIME INSTRUCTION BY A LICENSED PRE-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER; TO
7 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
8 REGULARLY PARTICIPATING IN THE ABC PROGRAM AND TO REPORT TO THE
9 HOUSE AND SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES ON THE PROGRAM BEFORE
10 JANUARY 1, 2013; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Department of Education shall
13 establish and implement a program to be known as "A Better Chance"
14 or the "ABC Program," the purpose of which shall be to make
15 pre-kindergarten instruction available to students and their
16 families or caregivers throughout the state. Beginning with the
17 2011-2012 school year, the program of instruction shall be
18 delivered via the Internet and shall consist of daily
19 age-appropriate instruction and activities, including downloadable
20 educational materials, for children and their parents based on the
21 Mississippi Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum.

22 (2) The ABC Program shall include a daily period of
23 real-time instruction during which a licensed pre-kindergarten
24 teacher delivers instruction via the Internet. The duration of
25 the period of real-time instruction shall be determined by the
26 department. In order to afford parents and caregivers the
27 greatest opportunity to avail children of the pre-kindergarten
28 instruction, the daily lessons and activities presented during the
29 real-time period of instruction shall be scheduled for no less
30 than three (3) different times each school day. At all other



31 times, the period of instruction shall be available on the ABC
32 Program's Web page for replay.

33 (3) The department shall develop a method to determine the
34 number of children throughout the state who regularly participate
35 in the ABC Program and to assess the progress being made by those
36 children. Before January 1, 2013, the department shall submit a
37 report to the Education Committees of the House and Senate on the
38 success of the ABC Program.

39 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
40 and after July 1, 2011.

