

By: Senator(s) Wiggins, Tollison, Burton,  
Butler (36th), Dawkins, Hale, Horhn, Jackson  
(11th), Jordan, Montgomery, Stone

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2395  
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
2 EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM IN THE STATE OF  
3 MISSISSIPPI ON A PHASED-IN BASIS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-21-51,  
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO TRANSFER THE DUTIES AND  
5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RELATIVE TO  
6 THE "EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ACT" TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
7 EDUCATION, TO REDESIGNATE THE PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AS THE  
8 "EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ACT OF 2013," TO COMMIT FUNDING OF  
9 THE "EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ACT OF 2013" ON A PHASED-IN  
10 BASIS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-21-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
11 DESIGNATE AND EMPOWER THE STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL  
12 (SECAC) AND PRESCRIBE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO ASSIST THE STATE  
13 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE "EARLY LEARNING  
14 COLLABORATIVE ACT OF 2013" PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW; TO AMEND  
15 SECTION 37-7-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL  
16 SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT THE "EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE  
17 ACT OF 2013"; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-21-3 AND 37-21-5, MISSISSIPPI  
18 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS FOR STATE OR FEDERAL  
19 FUNDED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM PERSONNEL; TO PROVIDE FOR  
20 A STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED  
21 PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-21-55, MISSISSIPPI  
22 CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES  
23 ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

25 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
26 amended as follows:

27 37-21-51. (1) As used in \* \* \* Section 37-21-51 \* \* \*:



28           (a) "Preschool or prekindergarten children" means any  
29 children who have not entered kindergarten but will have obtained  
30 four (4) years of age on or before September 1 of a school year.

31           (b) An "early learning collaborative" is a district or  
32 countywide council that writes and submits an application to  
33 participate in the voluntary prekindergarten program. An early  
34 learning collaborative is comprised, at a minimum, of a public  
35 school district and/or a local Head Start affiliate if in  
36 existence, private or parochial schools, or one or more licensed  
37 child care centers. Agencies or other organizations that work  
38 with young children and their families may also participate in the  
39 collaborative to provide resources and coordination even if those  
40 agencies or organizations are not prekindergarten providers.

41           (c) A "prekindergarten provider" is a public, private  
42 or parochial school, licensed childcare center or Head Start  
43 center that serves prekindergarten children and participates in  
44 the voluntary prekindergarten program.

45           (d) A "lead partner" is a public school district or  
46 other nonprofit entity with the instructional expertise and  
47 operational capacity to manage the early learning collaborative's  
48 prekindergarten program as described in the collaborative's  
49 approved application for funds. The lead partner serves as the  
50 fiscal agent for the collaborative and shall disburse awarded  
51 funds in accordance with the collaborative's approved application.  
52 The lead partner must facilitate a professional learning community



53 for the teachers in the prekindergarten program and lead the  
54 collaborative. The lead partner ensures that the collaborative  
55 adopts and implements curriculum and assessments that align with  
56 the comprehensive early learning standards. The public school  
57 district shall be the lead partner if no other qualifying lead  
58 partner is selected.

59 (e) "Comprehensive early learning standards" are  
60 standards adopted by the State Board of Education that address the  
61 highest level of fundamental domains of early learning to include,  
62 but not be limited to, physical well-being and motor development,  
63 social/emotional development, approaches toward learning, language  
64 development and cognition and general knowledge. The  
65 comprehensive early learning standards shall also include  
66 standards for emergent literacy skills, including oral  
67 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonological and  
68 phonemic awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development.

69 (f) A "research-based curriculum" is an age-appropriate  
70 curriculum that is based on the findings of current research and  
71 has been found to be effective in improving student learning based  
72 on the results of rigorous evaluations.

73 (2) To ensure that all children have access to quality early  
74 childhood education and development services, the Legislature  
75 finds and declares the following:

76 (a) Parents have the primary duty to educate their  
77 young preschool children;



78 (b) The State of Mississippi can assist and educate  
79 parents in their role as the primary caregivers and educators of  
80 young preschool children; \* \* \*

81 (c) There is a need to explore innovative approaches  
82 and strategies for aiding parents and families in the education  
83 and development of young preschool children \* \* \*; and

84 (d) There exists a patchwork of prekindergarten  
85 entities but no coordination of services and there needs to be a  
86 coordination of these services.

87 (3) (a) This subsection shall be known and may be cited as  
88 the "Early Learning Collaborative Act of \* \* \* 2013."

89 (b) Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, the  
90 Mississippi State Department of \* \* \* Education shall \* \* \*  
91 establish a voluntary \* \* \* prekindergarten program, which shall  
92 be a collaboration among the entities providing prekindergarten  
93 programs including Head Start, licensed child care facilities and  
94 licensed public, parochial and private school prekindergarten  
95 programs. This program shall be implemented no later than the  
96 2014-2015 school year. Enrollment in the \* \* \* prekindergarten  
97 program shall be coordinated with the Head Start agencies in the  
98 local areas and shall not be permitted to cause a reduction in  
99 children served by the Head Start program. Under this program,  
100 eligible entities may submit an application for funds to (i)  
101 defray the cost of additional and/or more qualified teaching  
102 staff, appropriate educational materials and equipment and to



103 improve the quality of educational experiences offered to  
104 four-year-old children in \* \* \* early care and education programs,  
105 and/or to (ii) extend developmentally appropriate education  
106 services at such \* \* \* programs currently serving four-year-old  
107 children to include practices of high quality instruction, and to  
108 (iii) administer, implement, monitor and evaluate the  
109 programs. \* \* \*

110 (c) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated  
111 therefor, the State Department of \* \* \* Education shall \* \* \*  
112 administer the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the  
113 voluntary prekindergarten program, including awards and the  
114 application process.

115 (i) The department shall establish a rigorous  
116 application process for the awarding of funds. Lead partners  
117 shall submit the applications on behalf of their early learning  
118 collaborative.

119 (ii) The department will establish monitoring  
120 policies and procedures that, at a minimum, will include at least  
121 one (1) site visit a year.

122 (iii) The department will provide technical  
123 assistance to collaboratives and their providers to improve the  
124 quality of prekindergarten programs.

125 (iv) The department will evaluate the  
126 effectiveness of each early childhood collaborative and each  
127 prekindergarten provider. If the State Department of Education



128 adopts a statewide kindergarten screening that assesses the  
129 readiness of each student for kindergarten, the State Department  
130 of Education shall adopt a minimum rate of readiness that each  
131 prekindergarten provider must meet in order to remain eligible for  
132 prekindergarten program funds. Each parent who enrolls his or her  
133 child in the prekindergarten program must submit the child for the  
134 statewide kindergarten screening, regardless of whether the child  
135 is admitted to kindergarten in a public school.

136 (d) \* \* \* Prekindergarten program funds shall be  
137 awarded to \* \* \* early childhood collaboratives whose proposed  
138 programs \* \* \* meet the program criteria \* \* \*. The  
139 criteria \* \* \* shall include, but not be limited to:

140 (i) Voluntary enrollment of children; \* \* \*

141 (ii) Collaboration among prekindergarten providers  
142 and other early childhood programs through the establishment of an  
143 early learning collaborative;

144 (iii) Qualifications of master teachers, teachers  
145 and assistants, which must conform to guidelines in Section  
146 37-21-3;

147 (iv) At least fifteen (15) hours of annual  
148 professional development for program instructional staff,  
149 including professional development in early literacy;

150 (v) The use of state-adopted comprehensive early  
151 learning standards;



152                   (vi) The use of a research-based curriculum that  
153 is designed to prepare students to be ready for kindergarten, with  
154 emphasis in early literacy, and is aligned with the comprehensive  
155 early learning standards;

156                   (vii) The use of age-appropriate assessments  
157 aligned to the comprehensive early learning standards;

158                   (viii) Teacher/child ratios of one (1) adult for  
159 every ten (10) children with a maximum of twenty (20) children per  
160 classroom and a minimum of five (5) children per classroom;

161                   (ix) The provision of at least one (1) meal  
162 meeting state and federal nutrition guidelines for young children;

163                   (x) Plans to screen and/or refer children for  
164 vision, hearing and other health issues;

165                   (xi) Parent involvement opportunities;

166                   (xii) Plans to serve children with disabilities as  
167 indicated under IDEA;

168                   (xiii) The number of instructional hours to be  
169 provided, which shall equal no less than five hundred forty (540)  
170 instructional hours per school year for half-day programs and one  
171 thousand eighty (1,080) instructional hours per school year for  
172 full-day programs; and

173                   (xiv) A budget detailing the use of funds for  
174 allowed expenses.

175                   Participating childcare centers shall meet state child care  
176 facility licensure requirements as well as have a rating of at



177 least a "3" on the Quality Rating and Improvement Scale.  
178 Participating Head Start centers must meet state child care  
179 facility licensure standards when applicable as well as be in  
180 compliance with federal Head Start program guidelines.

181 Within the prekindergarten program, a prekindergarten  
182 provider must comply with the antidiscrimination requirements  
183 applicable to public schools. A prekindergarten provider may not  
184 discriminate against a parent or child, including the refusal to  
185 admit a child for enrollment in the prekindergarten program, in  
186 violation of these antidiscrimination requirements. However, a  
187 prekindergarten provider may refuse to admit a child based on the  
188 provider's standard eligibility guidelines, provided that these  
189 guidelines do not violate the antidiscrimination requirements.

190 The State Department of Education may add program criteria  
191 not inconsistent with these requirements and shall develop  
192 policies and procedures to implement and enforce these criteria.

193 (e) The State Department of Education shall ensure that  
194 early learning collaboratives provide each parent enrolling a  
195 child in the voluntary prekindergarten program with a profile of  
196 every prekindergarten provider participating in the  
197 collaborative's geographic catchment area. The State Department  
198 of Education shall prescribe the information to be included in  
199 each profile as well as the format of the profiles. At a minimum,  
200 the profiles must include the prekindergarten provider's services,





201 curriculum, instructor credentials and instructor-to-student  
202 ratio.

203 ( \* \* \* f ) \* \* \* A teacher, assistant teacher or other  
204 employee whose salary and fringe benefits are paid from \* \* \*  
205 state funds under this act shall \* \* \* only be \* \* \* classified as  
206 a state or local school district \* \* \* employee \* \* \* eligible for  
207 state health insurance benefits or membership in the Public  
208 Employees' Retirement System, if the person's employer is already  
209 an agency or instrumentality of the state, such as a school  
210 district, and the employee would be eligible for such benefits in  
211 the normal course of business.

212 ( \* \* \* g ) \* \* \* Funding shall be provided \* \* \* for  
213 this program beginning with the \* \* \* 2014 fiscal year subject to  
214 appropriation by the Legislature as provided in paragraph (h) of  
215 this subsection. The department shall make an annual report to  
216 the Legislature and the Governor regarding the effectiveness of  
217 the program as determined by the school readiness of participants.

218 ( \* \* \* h ) (i) The Legislature shall appropriate funds  
219 to implement the Early Education Collaborative Act of 2013 on a  
220 phased-in basis as follows:

221 1. The first phase shall be based an annual  
222 state appropriation of not less than Eight Million Dollars  
223 (\$8,000,000.00) and shall serve approximately three thousand five  
224 hundred (3,500) children through five (5) to eight (8) early  
225 learning collaboratives and their prekindergarten providers;



226                   2. The second phase shall be based on an  
227 annual state appropriation of not less than Sixteen Million  
228 Dollars (\$16,000,000.00) and shall serve approximately seven  
229 thousand (7,000) children through ten (10) to fifteen (15) early  
230 learning collaboratives and their prekindergarten providers;

231                   3. The third phase shall be based on an  
232 annual state appropriation of not less than Thirty-three Million  
233 Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$33,950,000.00) and shall  
234 serve approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) children through  
235 twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) early learning collaboratives and  
236 their prekindergarten providers.

237                   (ii) Future phases shall be based on interest in  
238 the program and the effectiveness of the program as determined by  
239 the school readiness of participants. Each phase shall last for  
240 at least three (3) years but no more than five (5) years. The  
241 State Department of Education shall determine when to move to a  
242 new phase of the program, within the timeline provided herein.

243                   (iii) Funding shall be provided to early learning  
244 collaboratives on the basis of Two Thousand One Hundred Fifty  
245 Dollars (\$2,150.00) per student in a full-day program and One  
246 Thousand Seventy-five Dollars (\$1,075.00) per student in a  
247 half-day program proposed in the collaborative's approved  
248 application. Once an early learning collaborative's plan is  
249 approved and funded, the collaborative and/or its prekindergarten  
250 providers shall receive funds on an ongoing basis unless the



251 collaborative and/or its prekindergarten providers no longer meet  
252 the criteria to participate in the program.

253 (iv) Early learning collaboratives shall match  
254 state funds on a 1:1 basis. Local matching funds may include  
255 local tax dollars, federal dollars as allowed, parent tuition,  
256 philanthropic contributions, or in-kind donations of facilities,  
257 equipment and services required as part of the program such as  
258 food service or health screenings.

259 (v) The State Department of Education shall  
260 reserve no more than five percent (5%) of the appropriation in any  
261 year for administrative costs. Funds remaining after awards to  
262 early learning collaboratives and the department's administrative  
263 needs are met may be carried over in the following year. In the  
264 first year of implementation of the program, the department may  
265 delay the awarding of funds until the 2014-2015 school year should  
266 time not be sufficient to establish the program's operation prior  
267 to the 2013-2014 school year.

268 (vi) In the initial phase of implementation, the  
269 State Department of Education shall award state funds under the  
270 Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 based on a community's  
271 capacity, commitment and need. To determine capacity, the State  
272 Department of Education shall require evidence of existing strong  
273 local collaborations of early education stakeholders. Such  
274 evidence may include, but not be limited to, collaborations  
275 resulting from participation in Excel By 5, Supporting



276 Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK), the Gilmore Early  
277 Learning Initiative (GELI), or other similar community-wide  
278 collaboration efforts. In addition to participation in the  
279 above-named improvement programs, partnerships between local  
280 collaborations or their stakeholders and other capacity-building  
281 programs such as Mississippi Building Blocks or the Mississippi  
282 Department of Human Services' Allies for Quality Care, as well as  
283 ongoing high-quality prekindergarten programs, may be considered  
284 as evidence of a local collaboration's commitment to  
285 prekindergarten and the improvement of local options. In  
286 determining community need, the department shall consider low  
287 academic achievement within the public school district(s)  
288 participating in an applicant early learning collaborative, the  
289 number and percentage of children without quality prekindergarten  
290 options, and/or other compelling evidence of need.

291 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-21-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
292 amended as follows:

293 37-21-53. (1) The \* \* \* State Early Childhood Advisory  
294 Council (SECAC) is created (a) to assist the State Department of  
295 Education with the implementation of the Early Learning  
296 Collaborative Act of 2013, (b) to ensure coordination among the  
297 various agencies and programs serving preschool children in order  
298 to support school district's efforts to achieve the goal of  
299 readiness to start school, (c) to facilitate communication,  
300 cooperation and maximum use of resources and to promote high



301 standards for all programs serving preschool children and their  
302 families in Mississippi, and (d) to serve as the designated  
303 council for early childhood education and care pursuant to federal  
304 Public Law 110-134.

305 (2) The membership of the \* \* \* State Early Childhood  
306 Advisory Council (SECAC) in accordance with Public Law 110-134,  
307 shall include, to the extent possible:

308 (a) \* \* \* A representative of the Mississippi  
309 Department of Human Services;

310 (b) \* \* \* A representative of the Mississippi  
311 Department of Education;

312 (c) \* \* \* A representative of local educational  
313 agencies;

314 (d) \* \* \* A representative of Mississippi Institutions  
315 of Higher Education;

316 (e) \* \* \* A representative of local providers of early  
317 childhood education and care services;

318 (f) \* \* \* A representative from Head Start agencies  
319 located in the state, including Indian Head Start programs and  
320 migrant and seasonal Head Start programs as available;

321 (g) \* \* \* The State Director of Head Start  
322 Collaboration;

323 (h) \* \* \* The Part C Coordinator and/or the Section 619  
324 Coordinator of programs under the Individuals with Disabilities  
325 Education Act (20 USC 1419, 1431 et seq.);



326 (i) \* \* \* A representative of the Mississippi  
327 Department of Health;  
328 (j) A representative of the Mississippi Department of  
329 Mental Health; and  
330 (k) Representatives of other entities deemed relevant  
331 by the Governor.

332 (3) The council shall meet upon call of the Governor \* \* \*  
333 and shall organize for business by selecting a chairman, who shall  
334 serve for a one-year term and may be selected for subsequent  
335 terms. The council shall adopt internal organizational procedures  
336 necessary for efficient operation of the council. Council  
337 procedures must include duties of officers, a process for  
338 selecting officers, quorum requirements for conducting business  
339 and policies for any council staff. Each member of the council  
340 shall designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the  
341 council in performing its duties and responsibilities. The  
342 council shall meet and conduct business at least twice annually.  
343 Meetings of the council must be open to the public, and  
344 opportunity for public comment must be made available at each  
345 meeting. The chairman of the council shall notify all persons who  
346 request such notice as to the date, time and place of each  
347 meeting.

348 (4) The \* \* \* State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC)  
349 shall perform each of the following duties:



350 (a) \* \* \* Build on the existing early care and  
351 education system and to develop a strong infrastructure supporting  
352 collaboration, coordination and equitable access to quality  
353 services and supports;

354 (b) \* \* \* Carry out the duties and functions specified  
355 in Public Law 110-134, including:

356 (i) Periodically conducting a statewide needs  
357 assessment concerning the quality and availability of early  
358 childhood education and development programs and services for  
359 children from birth to school entry, including assessing the  
360 availability of high-quality prekindergarten services for  
361 low-income children in Mississippi;

362 (ii) Identifying opportunities for, and barriers  
363 to, collaboration and coordination among federally funded and  
364 state-funded child development, child care, and early childhood  
365 education programs and services, including collaboration and  
366 coordination among state agencies responsible for administering  
367 such programs;

368 (iii) Developing recommendations for increasing  
369 the overall participation of children in existing federal, state  
370 and local child care and early childhood education programs,  
371 including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;

372 (iv) Developing recommendations regarding the  
373 establishment of a unified data collection system for early



374 childhood education and development programs and services  
375 throughout Mississippi;

376 (v) Developing recommendations regarding statewide  
377 professional development and career advancement plans for early  
378 childhood educators in Mississippi;

379 (vi) Assess the capacity and effectiveness of two-  
380 and four-year public and private institutions of higher education  
381 in Mississippi toward supporting the development of early  
382 childhood educators, including the extent to which such  
383 institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional  
384 development and career advancement plans, and practice or  
385 internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or  
386 prekindergarten program; and

387 (vii) Make recommendations for improvements in the  
388 State Early Learning Guidelines and undertake efforts to develop  
389 high quality comprehensive early learning standards, as  
390 appropriate;

391 (c) \* \* \* Hold public hearings and/or provide  
392 opportunities for public comment on the activities described above  
393 in accordance with Public Law 110-134;

394 (d) \* \* \* Submit a statewide strategic report  
395 addressing council activities to the State Director of Head Start  
396 Collaboration and the Governor, in accordance with Public Law  
397 110-134; and





398 (e) \* \* \* Meet periodically to review the  
399 implementation of recommendations contained in the statewide  
400 strategic report and to address any changes in state and local  
401 needs, in accordance with Public Law 110-134.

402 \* \* \*

403 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
404 amended as follows:

405 37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall  
406 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all  
407 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

408 (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district  
409 and to make such division between the high school grades and  
410 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best  
411 interests of the school;

412 (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual  
413 training and other special subjects into either the elementary or  
414 high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;

415 (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school  
416 property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the  
417 school term and during vacation;

418 (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing  
419 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary  
420 school improvements;

421 (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the  
422 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school



423 or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school  
424 property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from  
425 school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct  
426 occurring on property other than school property or other than at  
427 a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil,  
428 in the determination of the school superintendent or principal,  
429 renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the  
430 educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best  
431 interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a  
432 whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials  
433 of the school district;

434 (f) To visit schools in the district, in their  
435 discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be  
436 done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

437 (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the  
438 superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the  
439 proper discipline of the school;

440 (h) To exclude from the schools students with what  
441 appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided,  
442 however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon  
443 presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly  
444 licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free  
445 from such disease;

446 (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the  
447 State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37;



448           (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services  
449 are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;

450           (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and  
451 grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the  
452 people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;

453           (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not  
454 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board  
455 of Education for their own government and for the government of  
456 the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special  
457 meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

458           (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under  
459 their control for such length of time during the year as may be  
460 required;

461           (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and  
462 the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;

463           (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of  
464 schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes  
465 on any available funds of the district and to have full control of  
466 the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds  
467 provided for the support and operation of the schools of such  
468 school district whether such funds be derived from state  
469 appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise.  
470 The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to  
471 promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims  
472 and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the



473 superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next  
474 regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;

475 (p) To select all school district personnel in the  
476 manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe  
477 benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may  
478 be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;

479 (q) To provide athletic programs and other school  
480 activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such  
481 programs and activities;

482 (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of  
483 school boards and other public school-related organizations, and  
484 to pay from local funds other than minimum foundation funds, any  
485 membership dues;

486 (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other  
487 available school district funds, other than minimum education  
488 program funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph.  
489 "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials  
490 in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any  
491 school activity, such activity being part of the school program  
492 and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public  
493 funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds  
494 raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a  
495 bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether  
496 the funds were raised by school employees or received by school  
497 employees during school hours or using school facilities, and



498 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over  
499 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall  
500 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of  
501 any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school  
502 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be  
503 beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the  
504 school. For the purposes of this provision, the term  
505 "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the  
506 control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may  
507 only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,  
508 including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in  
509 attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,  
510 conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel  
511 expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local  
512 school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial  
513 to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,  
514 including items which may subsequently become the personal  
515 property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,  
516 book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay  
517 travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school  
518 governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate  
519 rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes  
520 school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing  
521 board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be  
522 maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating



523 the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school  
524 activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the  
525 superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the  
526 board. The local school governing board shall provide that such  
527 school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit  
528 required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education  
529 shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial  
530 reporting for all school activity fund transactions;

531 (t) To contract, on a shared savings, lease or  
532 lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or  
533 equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14, not to exceed ten  
534 (10) years;

535 (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on  
536 school food service bank accounts;

537 (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual,  
538 partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit  
539 corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend  
540 funds therefor as may be available from any nonminimum program  
541 sources. The school board of the school district desiring to  
542 lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need  
543 exists for a school building and that the school district cannot  
544 provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate  
545 share of the cost of a school building required to meet the  
546 present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board  
547 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks



548 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district  
549 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less  
550 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school  
551 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If  
552 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting  
553 as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution  
554 spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If  
555 at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less  
556 than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is  
557 less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved  
558 shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election  
559 be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later  
560 than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an  
561 election to be held within such school district upon the question  
562 of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such  
563 election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be  
564 given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the  
565 issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof  
566 shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths  
567 (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted  
568 in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school  
569 building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school  
570 building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty  
571 (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the  
572 amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board



573 after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the  
574 current fair market value of the lease as determined by the  
575 averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general  
576 appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school  
577 building" as used in this paragraph (v) (i) shall be construed to  
578 mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in  
579 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the  
580 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment  
581 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities,  
582 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and  
583 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v) (i)  
584 may include a lease/purchase contract;

585 (ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose  
586 to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the  
587 school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall  
588 be binding on any such school district unless the question of  
589 leasing a school building is approved in each participating school  
590 district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph  
591 (v) (i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v) (i) regarding the  
592 term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school  
593 boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract  
594 executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees  
595 shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid  
596 by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of  
597 occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as





598 stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees  
599 under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of  
600 lease rental paid by each;

601 (w) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated  
602 employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel  
603 deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the  
604 superintendent of schools;

605 (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of  
606 such legal counsel as deemed necessary;

607 (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board  
608 of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other  
609 motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification  
610 required by law;

611 (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute  
612 teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment  
613 and compensation of such substitute teachers;

614 (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real  
615 property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with  
616 the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school  
617 building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real  
618 property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the  
619 school board shall not purchase the property for an amount  
620 exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by  
621 the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by  
622 certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.



623 If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such  
624 real property in connection with any such project, the board shall  
625 have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by  
626 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,  
627 Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of  
628 eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.  
629 Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to  
630 grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section  
631 land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon  
632 adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial  
633 benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the  
634 exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent  
635 appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash  
636 payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land  
637 under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to  
638 be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land  
639 which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any  
640 such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school  
641 district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected  
642 by the easement;

643 (bb) To charge reasonable fees related to the  
644 educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in  
645 Section 37-7-335;

646 (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State  
647 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use



648 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section  
649 37-1-13;

650 (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other  
651 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities  
652 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school  
653 board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources  
654 for providing services to the public;

655 (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees  
656 of the district;

657 (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of  
658 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be  
659 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the  
660 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper  
661 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a  
662 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of  
663 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall  
664 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of  
665 the textbooks;

666 (gg) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of  
667 the school district that the local school board, in its  
668 discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or  
669 extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:

670 (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities  
671 shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as  
672 are other activity funds under this section; and



673                   (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or  
674 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the  
675 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for  
676 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall  
677 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the  
678 proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the  
679 student activity fund;

680                   (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and  
681 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or  
682 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment  
683 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted  
684 by the school board;

685                   (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an  
686 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for  
687 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band  
688 instruments and uniforms;

689                   (jj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising  
690 activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt  
691 charitable organization;

692                   (kk) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably  
693 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;

694                   (ll) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts  
695 organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide  
696 performances or other services for the students of the school  
697 district;



698 (mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds,  
699 or any other available funds that are expressly designated and  
700 authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses,  
701 salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local  
702 school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered  
703 part of the local supplement as defined in Section 37-151-5(o),  
704 nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement  
705 paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section  
706 37-19-7(1). Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds or any  
707 other state funds may not be used for salary incentives or salary  
708 supplements as provided in this paragraph (mm);

709 (nn) To use any available funds, not appropriated or  
710 designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the  
711 state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who  
712 enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the  
713 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation  
714 of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than  
715 that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into  
716 the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand  
717 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in  
718 the course of relocating, including the expense of any  
719 professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the  
720 move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount  
721 authorized for county and municipal employees under Section  
722 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or



723 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated  
724 with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for  
725 moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion  
726 by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be  
727 construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed  
728 employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school  
729 district that has executed a contract for employment in order for  
730 the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the  
731 moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate  
732 within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual  
733 receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher  
734 Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible  
735 to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this  
736 paragraph;

737           (oo) To use any available funds, not appropriated or  
738 designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who  
739 interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district  
740 for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course  
741 of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for  
742 county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;

743           (pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to  
744 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve  
745 school district management and use of resources and identify cost  
746 savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,  
747 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews



748 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.  
749 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and  
750 local officials and the public with the following:

751 (i) An assessment of a school district's  
752 governance and organizational structure;

753 (ii) An assessment of the school district's  
754 financial and personnel management;

755 (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources;

756 (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization,  
757 planning and maintenance;

758 (v) An assessment of food services, transportation  
759 and safety/security systems;

760 (vi) An assessment of instructional and  
761 administrative technology;

762 (vii) A review of the instructional management and  
763 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional  
764 programs; and

765 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing  
766 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to  
767 the public;

768 (qq) To enter into agreements with other local school  
769 boards for the establishment of an educational service agency  
770 (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which  
771 the school district is located, as provided in Section 37-7-345;



772           (rr) To implement a financial literacy program for  
773 students in Grades 10 and 11. The board may review the national  
774 programs and obtain free literature from various nationally  
775 recognized programs. After review of the different programs, the  
776 board may certify a program that is most appropriate for the  
777 school districts' needs. If a district implements a financial  
778 literacy program, then any student in Grade 10 or 11 may  
779 participate in the program. The financial literacy program shall  
780 include, but is not limited to, instruction in the same areas of  
781 personal business and finance as required under Section  
782 37-1-3(2) (b). The school board may coordinate with volunteer  
783 teachers from local community organizations, including, but not  
784 limited to, the following: United States Department of  
785 Agriculture Rural Development, United States Department of Housing  
786 and Urban Development, Junior Achievement, bankers and other  
787 nonprofit organizations. Nothing in this paragraph shall be  
788 construed as to require school boards to implement a financial  
789 literacy program;

790           (ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,  
791 Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to  
792 develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for  
793 a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social,  
794 and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children.  
795 The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to  
796 fund the voluntary program \* \* \*. Effective with the 2013-2014





797 school year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under  
798 the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state  
799 funds awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching  
800 basis;

801 (tt) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of  
802 a school district, including, but not limited to, leases  
803 (excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land),  
804 bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the  
805 obligee that the Department of Revenue or any state agency,  
806 department or commission created under state law may:

807 (i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the  
808 school board) of any monies which such local school board is  
809 entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is  
810 in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state  
811 agency, department or commission created under state law; and

812 (ii) Pay the same over to any financial  
813 institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by  
814 the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the  
815 school district.

816 The school board may make such written agreement to withhold  
817 and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written  
818 obligation and may include in the written agreement any other  
819 terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the  
820 school board files a copy of such written agreement with the  
821 Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or



822 commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue  
823 or any state agency, department or commission created under state  
824 law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such  
825 agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall  
826 continue to pay the same over to such financial institution,  
827 trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

828         This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a  
829 school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory  
830 limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such  
831 school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities,  
832 and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect  
833 a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not  
834 be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust  
835 land;

836         (uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is  
837 competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder  
838 as a good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type  
839 of good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be  
840 accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on  
841 similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph  
842 (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public  
843 school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment  
844 of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of  
845 investments, including pooled investments, as any other political  
846 subdivision, including community hospitals;



847 (vv) To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance  
848 or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a  
849 partial or other undivided interest in the property, as  
850 specifically authorized and provided in Section 37-7-485,  
851 Mississippi Code of 1972;

852 (ww) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a  
853 contract with private entities for the operation of any and all  
854 functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations  
855 including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial  
856 services, transportation, professional development, achievement  
857 and instructional consulting services materials and products,  
858 purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,  
859 auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,  
860 data processing and student records, and other staff services;  
861 however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the  
862 leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.  
863 Local school districts, working through their regional education  
864 service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with  
865 other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of  
866 state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;

867 (xx) To partner with entities, organizations and  
868 corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district;

869 (yy) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic  
870 Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings;



871 (zz) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood  
872 education programs, defined as programs for children less than  
873 five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any  
874 source of revenue for such early childhood education programs.  
875 Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning  
876 Collaborative Act of \* \* \* 2013;

877 (aaa) To issue and provide for the use of procurement  
878 cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school  
879 personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the  
880 Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section  
881 31-7-9; and

882 (bbb) To conduct an annual comprehensive evaluation of  
883 the superintendent of schools consistent with the assessment  
884 components of paragraph (pp) of this section and the assessment  
885 benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Board Association  
886 to evaluate the success the superintendent has attained in meeting  
887 district goals and objectives, the superintendent's leadership  
888 skill and whether or not the superintendent has established  
889 appropriate standards for performance, is monitoring success and  
890 is using data for improvement.

891 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-21-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
892 amended as follows:

893 37-21-3. No person shall act in the capacity of master  
894 teacher, teacher or assistant teacher \* \* \* in any federal or  
895 state-funded program of early childhood education or \* \* \* "Head



896 Start," or perform any of the functions, duties or powers of the  
897 same, unless that person shall be qualified in the following  
898 manner:

899 (a) A \* \* \* master teacher or any other employee or  
900 consultant receiving a salary or fee equivalent to that of a \* \* \*  
901 master teacher \* \* \* shall \* \* \* meet the qualifications of a  
902 teacher in this section, including the requirement that a teacher  
903 may be required to hold a state teaching license by the State  
904 Department of Education, and have demonstrated effectiveness as an  
905 early childhood educator. Effectiveness as an early childhood  
906 educator may be demonstrated by a rating of highly effective on a  
907 state evaluation of teaching, if available, or with evidence that  
908 the teacher has a record of raising the achievement outcomes of  
909 prekindergarten students.

910 (b) A teacher shall possess a \* \* \* bachelor's degree  
911 in early childhood education, child development, or an equivalent  
912 field. A teacher may also possess a bachelor's degree in any  
913 field as well as have at least twelve (12) credit hours of  
914 coursework in early childhood education, child development, or an  
915 equivalent field approved by an institution granting a bachelor's  
916 degree in the early childhood education, child development, or an  
917 equivalent field; or have a bachelor's degree in any field as well  
918 as have completed a specialized early childhood training program  
919 deemed equivalent by the State Department of Education to twelve  
920 (12) hours of approved coursework.



921 (c) An assistant teacher shall possess \* \* \* an  
922 associate's degree in early childhood education, child  
923 development, or an equivalent field; or an associate's degree in  
924 any field and a Child Development Associate credential, a  
925 Montessori certification, or an equivalent certification. Public  
926 school assistant teachers in the voluntary prekindergarten program  
927 established by the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 may be  
928 required by the State Department of Education to meet the  
929 definition of a highly qualified paraprofessional in addition to  
930 these requirements.

931 \* \* \*

932 The State Department of Education shall adopt any necessary  
933 rules, policies or procedures to implement this section.

934 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-21-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
935 amended as follows:

936 37-21-5. The \* \* \* State Department of Education of the  
937 State of Mississippi is vested with the authority to enforce the  
938 provisions of Sections 37-21-1 through 37-21-5. The \* \* \*  
939 department shall have the authority to make investigations and to  
940 require such proof of qualification as may be necessary for the  
941 enforcement of Sections 37-21-1 through 37-21-5. \* \* \*

942 **SECTION 6.** This section shall be codified in Title 27,  
943 Chapter 7 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

944 (1) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax  
945 imposed by Section 27-7-5 the amount of the qualified



946 prekindergarten program support contributions paid to approved  
947 providers, lead partners or collaboratives, not to exceed One  
948 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), by any individual, corporation or  
949 other entity having taxable income under the laws of this state  
950 during calendar year 2013 or during any calendar year thereafter.  
951 In order to qualify for a tax credit, such contributions shall  
952 support the local match requirement of approved providers, lead  
953 partners or collaboratives as is necessary to match  
954 state-appropriated funds, and any such providers, lead partners or  
955 collaboratives shall be approved by the State Department of  
956 Education.

957       (2) Any unused portion of the credit may be carried forward  
958 for three (3) tax years.

959       (3) Any prekindergarten program support contribution shall  
960 be verified by submission to the Mississippi Department of Revenue  
961 of a copy of the receipt provided to the donor taxpayer by the  
962 prekindergarten program recipient or such other written  
963 verification as may be required by the Department of Revenue.

964       (4) The maximum amount of donations accepted by the  
965 Department of Revenue in calendar year 2014 shall not exceed Eight  
966 Million Dollars (\$8,000,000.00), in calendar year 2015 shall not  
967 exceed Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000.00), and in calendar  
968 year 2016 and calendar years thereafter shall not exceed  
969 Thirty-two Million Dollars (\$32,000,000.00).



970           (5) The Mississippi Department of Revenue shall promulgate  
971 rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act. Such  
972 rules shall include a means of informing the public of the  
973 existence of the prekindergarten support program and the  
974 application process for provider, lead partner and collaborative  
975 candidates.

976           **SECTION 7.** Section 37-21-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, which  
977 establishes the Early Childhood Services Advisory Committee, is  
978 hereby repealed.

979           **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
980 and after July 1, 2013.

