

By: Senator(s) Collins, Hopson

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2713

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A  
 2 FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULUM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON OR BEFORE THE  
 3 2014-2015 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COURSE IN  
 4 FINANCIAL LITERACY SHALL ACCOUNT FOR A ONE-HALF CARNEGIE UNIT; TO  
 5 REQUIRE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE COURSE AS A GRADUATION  
 6 REQUIREMENT; TO ESTABLISH THE "FINANCIAL LITERACY TRUST FUND" AS A  
 7 SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDS  
 8 ADMINISTRATION; TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 9 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED  
 10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Board of Education shall implement  
 13 a financial literacy curriculum on or before the 2014-2015  
 14 academic school year. The curriculum shall require that each  
 15 student take a one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit credit course in  
 16 personal finance. In order to earn a high school diploma, the  
 17 student shall have taken and passed the course. This section is  
 18 applicable to all schools, including, but not limited to, public,  
 19 charter, private, independent, parochial and home schools.

20 (2) There is established in the State Treasury a special  
 21 fund to be know as the "Financial Literacy Trust Fund" to provide  
 22 financial literacy in education for this program. The fund shall



23 be administered by the State Board of Education, shall be eligible  
24 to accept private contributions, publicly or privately funded  
25 grants, and funds appropriated by the state or federal government.  
26 No expenditure from the fund shall cause the fund to be in  
27 deficiency at the close of the fiscal year. Unexpended monies  
28 remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not  
29 lapse to the General Fund, but shall be available for expenditure  
30 in the subsequent fiscal year. The fund shall be an expendable  
31 trust fund and shall not be subject to appropriation or allotment.

32 (3) The State Board of Education shall develop rules and  
33 regulations for the implementation of the trust. The trust may  
34 expend funds to administer the fund, which shall include an annual  
35 independent audit of the financial activities of the fund. The  
36 trust may also enter into contracts with private corporations to  
37 manage and implement the programmatic, fiduciary or administrative  
38 goals of the trust subject to the approval of the board. The  
39 trust may also, to the extent necessary, create a 501(c)(3)  
40 corporation to fulfill the purposes of the trust. The board shall  
41 annually report to the Legislature all programmatic and financial  
42 activities and balances of the fund on or before December 31 of  
43 each year.

44 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
45 amended as follows:



46           37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall  
47 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all  
48 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

49           (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district  
50 and to make such division between the high school grades and  
51 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best  
52 interests of the school;

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

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

59           (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing  
60 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary  
61 school improvements;

62           (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the  
63 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school  
64 or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school  
65 property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from  
66 school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct  
67 occurring on property other than school property or other than at  
68 a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil,  
69 in the determination of the school superintendent or principal,  
70 renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the



71 educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best  
72 interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a  
73 whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials  
74 of the school district;

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

78 (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the  
79 superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the  
80 proper discipline of the school;

81 (h) To exclude from the schools students with what  
82 appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided,  
83 however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon  
84 presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly  
85 licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free  
86 from such disease;

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

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

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

94 (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not  
95 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board



96 of Education for their own government and for the government of  
97 the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special  
98 meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

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

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

104 (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of  
105 schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes  
106 on any available funds of the district and to have full control of  
107 the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds  
108 provided for the support and operation of the schools of such  
109 school district whether such funds be derived from state  
110 appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise.  
111 The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to  
112 promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims  
113 and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the  
114 superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next  
115 regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;

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



120           (q) To provide athletic programs and other school  
121 activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such  
122 programs and activities;

123           (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of  
124 school boards and other public school-related organizations, and  
125 to pay from local funds other than minimum foundation funds, any  
126 membership dues;

127           (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other  
128 available school district funds, other than minimum education  
129 program funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph.  
130 "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials  
131 in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any  
132 school activity, such activity being part of the school program  
133 and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public  
134 funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds  
135 raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a  
136 bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether  
137 the funds were raised by school employees or received by school  
138 employees during school hours or using school facilities, and  
139 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over  
140 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall  
141 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of  
142 any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school  
143 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be  
144 beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the



145 school. For the purposes of this provision, the term  
146 "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the  
147 control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may  
148 only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,  
149 including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in  
150 attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,  
151 conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel  
152 expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local  
153 school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial  
154 to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,  
155 including items which may subsequently become the personal  
156 property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,  
157 book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay  
158 travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school  
159 governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate  
160 rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes  
161 school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing  
162 board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be  
163 maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating  
164 the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school  
165 activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the  
166 superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the  
167 board. The local school governing board shall provide that such  
168 school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit  
169 required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education



170 shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial  
171 reporting for all school activity fund transactions;

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

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

178 (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual,  
179 partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit  
180 corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend  
181 funds therefor as may be available from any nonminimum program  
182 sources. The school board of the school district desiring to  
183 lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need  
184 exists for a school building and that the school district cannot  
185 provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate  
186 share of the cost of a school building required to meet the  
187 present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board  
188 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks  
189 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district  
190 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less  
191 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school  
192 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If  
193 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting  
194 as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution





195 spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If  
196 at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less  
197 than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is  
198 less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved  
199 shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election  
200 be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later  
201 than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an  
202 election to be held within such school district upon the question  
203 of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such  
204 election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be  
205 given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the  
206 issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof  
207 shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths  
208 (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted  
209 in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school  
210 building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school  
211 building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty  
212 (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the  
213 amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board  
214 after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the  
215 current fair market value of the lease as determined by the  
216 averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general  
217 appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school  
218 building" as used in this paragraph (v) (i) shall be construed to  
219 mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in



220 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the  
221 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment  
222 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities,  
223 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and  
224 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v) (i)  
225 may include a lease/purchase contract;

226 (ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose  
227 to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the  
228 school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall  
229 be binding on any such school district unless the question of  
230 leasing a school building is approved in each participating school  
231 district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph  
232 (v) (i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v) (i) regarding the  
233 term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school  
234 boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract  
235 executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees  
236 shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid  
237 by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of  
238 occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as  
239 stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees  
240 under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of  
241 lease rental paid by each;

242 (w) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated  
243 employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel



244 deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the  
245 superintendent of schools;

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

248 (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board  
249 of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other  
250 motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification  
251 required by law;

252 (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute  
253 teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment  
254 and compensation of such substitute teachers;

255 (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real  
256 property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with  
257 the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school  
258 building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real  
259 property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the  
260 school board shall not purchase the property for an amount  
261 exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by  
262 the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by  
263 certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.  
264 If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such  
265 real property in connection with any such project, the board shall  
266 have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by  
267 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,  
268 Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of



269 eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.  
270 Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to  
271 grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section  
272 land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon  
273 adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial  
274 benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the  
275 exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent  
276 appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash  
277 payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land  
278 under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to  
279 be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land  
280 which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any  
281 such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school  
282 district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected  
283 by the easement;

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

287 (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State  
288 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use  
289 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section  
290 37-1-13;

291 (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other  
292 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities  
293 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school



294 board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources  
295 for providing services to the public;

296 (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees  
297 of the district;

298 (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of  
299 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be  
300 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the  
301 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper  
302 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a  
303 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of  
304 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall  
305 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of  
306 the textbooks;

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

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

314 (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or  
315 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the  
316 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for  
317 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall  
318 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the



319 proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the  
320 student activity fund;

321 (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and  
322 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or  
323 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment  
324 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted  
325 by the school board;

326 (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an  
327 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for  
328 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band  
329 instruments and uniforms;

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

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

335 (ll) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts  
336 organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide  
337 performances or other services for the students of the school  
338 district;

339 (mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds,  
340 or any other available funds that are expressly designated and  
341 authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses,  
342 salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local  
343 school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered



344 part of the local supplement as defined in Section 37-151-5(o),  
345 nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement  
346 paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section  
347 37-19-7(1). Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds or any  
348 other state funds may not be used for salary incentives or salary  
349 supplements as provided in this paragraph (mm);

350 (nn) To use any available funds, not appropriated or  
351 designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the  
352 state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who  
353 enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the  
354 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation  
355 of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than  
356 that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into  
357 the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand  
358 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in  
359 the course of relocating, including the expense of any  
360 professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the  
361 move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount  
362 authorized for county and municipal employees under Section  
363 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or  
364 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated  
365 with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for  
366 moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion  
367 by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be  
368 construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed



369 employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school  
370 district that has executed a contract for employment in order for  
371 the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the  
372 moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate  
373 within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual  
374 receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher  
375 Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible  
376 to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this  
377 paragraph;

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

384           (pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to  
385 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve  
386 school district management and use of resources and identify cost  
387 savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,  
388 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews  
389 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.  
390 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and  
391 local officials and the public with the following:

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





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

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

397 (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization,  
398 planning and maintenance;

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

401 (vi) An assessment of instructional and  
402 administrative technology;

403 (vii) A review of the instructional management and  
404 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional  
405 programs; and

406 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing  
407 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to  
408 the public;

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

413 (rr) To implement a financial literacy program for  
414 students in Grades 10 \* \* \*, 11 and 12. The board may review the  
415 national programs and obtain free literature from various  
416 nationally recognized programs. After review of the different  
417 programs, the board \* \* \* shall certify a program that is \* \* \* to  
418 be implemented in all schools. The financial literacy program



419 shall include, but is not limited to, instruction in the \* \* \*  
420 areas of personal business and finance \* \* \* which shall include:

- 421 (i) Decision making;
- 422 (ii) Earning an income;
- 423 (iii) Saving and spending;
- 424 (iv) Use of credit; and
- 425 (v) Budgeting;

426 (ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,  
427 Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to  
428 develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for  
429 a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social,  
430 and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children.  
431 The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to  
432 fund the voluntary program;

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

439 (i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the  
440 school board) of any monies which such local school board is  
441 entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is  
442 in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state  
443 agency, department or commission created under state law; and



444 (ii) Pay the same over to any financial  
445 institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by  
446 the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the  
447 school district.

448 The school board may make such written agreement to withhold  
449 and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written  
450 obligation and may include in the written agreement any other  
451 terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the  
452 school board files a copy of such written agreement with the  
453 Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or  
454 commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue  
455 or any state agency, department or commission created under state  
456 law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such  
457 agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall  
458 continue to pay the same over to such financial institution,  
459 trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

460 This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a  
461 school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory  
462 limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such  
463 school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities,  
464 and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect  
465 a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not  
466 be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust  
467 land;



468           (uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is  
469 competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder  
470 as a good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type  
471 of good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be  
472 accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on  
473 similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph  
474 (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public  
475 school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment  
476 of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of  
477 investments, including pooled investments, as any other political  
478 subdivision, including community hospitals;

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

484           (wv) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a  
485 contract with private entities for the operation of any and all  
486 functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations  
487 including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial  
488 services, transportation, professional development, achievement  
489 and instructional consulting services materials and products,  
490 purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,  
491 auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,  
492 data processing and student records, and other staff services;



493 however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the  
494 leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.  
495 Local school districts, working through their regional education  
496 service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with  
497 other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of  
498 state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;

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

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

503 (zz) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood  
504 education programs, defined as programs for children less than  
505 five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any  
506 source of revenue for such early childhood education programs.  
507 Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning  
508 Collaborative Act of 2007;

509 (aaa) To issue and provide for the use of procurement  
510 cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school  
511 personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the  
512 Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section  
513 31-7-9; and

514 (bbb) To conduct an annual comprehensive evaluation of  
515 the superintendent of schools consistent with the assessment  
516 components of paragraph (pp) of this section and the assessment  
517 benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Board Association



518 to evaluate the success the superintendent has attained in meeting  
519 district goals and objectives, the superintendent's leadership  
520 skill and whether or not the superintendent has established  
521 appropriate standards for performance, is monitoring success and  
522 is using data for improvement.

523         **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
524 and after July 1, 2013.

