

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2436

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-154-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM (SLDS)
3 GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ALLOW THE PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF
4 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TO OPT-OUT OF THE MANDATORY ELECTRONIC DATA
5 EDUCATIONAL TRACKING SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-154-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-154-1. (1) To improve quality of life, education and
10 employment opportunities for all citizens, the appropriate
11 agencies of the State of Mississippi listed in subsection (2) of
12 this section shall develop and maintain a State Longitudinal Data
13 System (SLDS). The system will allow stakeholders and
14 policymakers access data on state residents from birth to the
15 workforce to drive accountability and investment decisions. The
16 system will include data from multiple state agencies and
17 entities. The system will provide decision makers a tool to
18 develop policies to support objectives, including, but not limited
19 to:



20 (a) Enabling Mississippians to secure and retain
21 employment and receive better pay after completing training or
22 postsecondary degrees;

23 (b) Enabling Mississippi to meet the education and job
24 skill demands of business and industry;

25 (c) Developing an early warning system, which allows
26 the state to intervene early, improving the graduation rates in
27 high school and college;

28 (d) Identifying teachers, teaching methods and programs
29 that lead to positive student outcomes; and

30 (e) Encouraging the sharing of electronic data across
31 educational and other entities.

32 (2) Individual state agencies and state entities will send
33 data from their internal system to the Statewide Longitudinal Data
34 System. These initial agencies and entities shall provide data to
35 the SLDS under the provisions developed by the SLDS Governing
36 Board established in Section 37-154-3:

37 (a) Mississippi Department of Education (MDE);

38 (b) * * * Mississippi Community College Board;

39 (c) Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
40 Learning (IHL);

41 (d) State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB);

42 (e) Mississippi Department of Employment Security
43 (MDES);



44 (f) Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS);
45 and

46 (g) State Early Childhood Advisory Council (SECAC).

47 Any agencies or entities added to SLDS shall provide a
48 representative to the SLDS Governing Board and be governed in the
49 same manner as the initial agencies and entities.

50 (3) The system will be based on an existing system currently
51 housed, developed and maintained by the National Strategic
52 Planning and Analysis Research Center (nSPARC) at Mississippi
53 State University. The initial agencies participating in the SLDS
54 Governing Board and nSPARC have worked collaboratively to secure
55 funding through the United States Department of Education to
56 expand and enhance the capacity of the state's existing technology
57 infrastructure for the purposes of developing the SLDS. The State
58 Data Center, operated by the Mississippi Department of Information
59 Technology Services (ITS), will provide application hosting
60 services for the SLDS until such time the SLDS Governing Board
61 approves that another entity should perform these services.

62 (4) Effective with the 2014-2015 school year, the State
63 Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Governing Board is authorized and
64 directed to allow the parents or legal guardians of public school
65 students to option-out of the mandatory electronic data
66 educational tracking system established under this section. The
67 State Board of Education, acting through the State Department of



68 Education, shall verify that any such parent or guardian is
69 allowed to option-out of this system upon request.

70 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after July 1, 2014.

