

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2432
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE SPECIAL MISSISSIPPI OCCUPATIONAL DIPLOMA FOR
3 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO ANY STUDENT
4 ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE IN THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR OR
5 THEREAFTER; TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
6 TO PROVIDE THAT THE CAREER TRACK PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS NOT PURSUING
7 A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE SHALL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO ANY STUDENT
8 ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE IN THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR OR
9 THEREAFTER; TO AMEND SECTION 37-23-147, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
10 TO REVISE THE PROCESS BY WHICH SCHOOLS PROVIDING FULL INCLUSION OF
11 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN ALL ACADEMIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR
12 ACTIVITIES ARE RECOGNIZED; TO RENAME THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AS
13 THE MISSISSIPPI SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL; AND FOR RELATED
14 PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
17 amended as follows:

18 37-16-11. (1) A student who has been properly classified,
19 in accordance with rules established by the State Board * * * of
20 Education shall, upon meeting all applicable requirements
21 prescribed by the district school board, be awarded a special
22 diploma in a form prescribed by the state board; however, such
23 special graduation requirements prescribed by the district school
24 board shall include minimum graduation requirements as prescribed



25 by the state board. Any such student who meets all special
26 requirements of the district school board for his exceptionality,
27 but is unable to meet the appropriate special state minimum
28 requirements, shall be awarded a special certificate of completion
29 in a form prescribed by the state board. Nothing provided in this
30 section, however, shall be construed to limit or restrict the
31 right of an exceptional student solely to a special diploma. Any
32 such student shall, upon proper request, be afforded the
33 opportunity to fully meet all requirements of Section 37-16-7
34 through the standard procedures established therein and thereby
35 qualify for a standard diploma upon graduation.

36 (2) The State Board of Education shall develop and issue
37 criteria for a Mississippi Occupational Diploma for students
38 having a disability as defined by the federal Individuals with
39 Disabilities Education Act. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school
40 year, any such student, upon proper request, shall be afforded the
41 opportunity to fully meet such requirements and qualify for an
42 occupational diploma upon graduation.

43 (3) The special Mississippi Occupational Diploma for
44 students with disabilities shall not be available to any student
45 entering the Ninth Grade in the 2017-2018 school year or
46 thereafter, pending State Board of Education approval of new
47 graduation options.

48 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-16-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
49 amended as follows:



50 37-16-17. (1) Purpose. (a) The purpose of this section is
51 to create a quality option in Mississippi's high schools for
52 students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which shall
53 consist of challenging academic courses and modern
54 career-technical studies. The goal for students pursuing the
55 career track is to graduate from high school with a standard
56 diploma and credit toward a community college certification in a
57 career-technical field. These students also shall be encouraged
58 to take the national assessment in the career-technical field in
59 which they become certified.

60 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and
61 adopt course and curriculum requirements for career track programs
62 offered by local public school boards in accordance with this
63 section. The Mississippi Community College Board and the State
64 Board of Education jointly shall determine course and curriculum
65 requirements for the career track program.

66 (2) Alternative career track; description; curriculum. (a)
67 A career track shall provide a student with greater technical
68 skill and a strong academic core and shall be offered to each high
69 school student enrolled in a public school district. The career
70 track program shall be linked to postsecondary options and shall
71 prepare students to pursue either a degree or certification from a
72 postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or
73 certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate
74 entrance into a career field. The career track shall be designed



75 primarily for those students who are not college bound and shall
76 provide them with alternatives to entrance into a four-year
77 university or college after high school graduation.

78 (b) Students pursuing a career track shall be afforded
79 the opportunity to dually enroll in a community or technical
80 college or to participate in a business internship or work-study
81 program, when such opportunities are available and appropriate.

82 (c) Each public school district shall offer a career
83 track program approved by the State Board of Education.

84 (d) Students in a career track program shall complete
85 an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of
86 courses.

87 (e) The twenty-one (21) course unit requirements for
88 the career track shall consist of the following:

89 (i) At least four (4) English credits, including
90 English I and English II.

91 (ii) At least three (3) mathematics credits,
92 including Algebra I.

93 (iii) At least three (3) science credits,
94 including one (1) unit of biology.

95 (iv) At least three (3) social studies credits,
96 including one (1) unit of U.S. History and one (1) unit of
97 Mississippi Studies/U.S. Government.

98 (v) At least one-half (1/2) credit in health or
99 physical education.



100 (vi) At least four (4) credits in career and
101 technical education courses in the dual enrollment-dual credit
102 programs authorized under Section 37-15-38.

103 (vii) At least one (1) credit in integrated
104 technology with optional end of course testing.

105 (viii) At least two and one-half (2-1/2) credits
106 in additional electives or career and technical education courses
107 required by the local school board, as approved by the State Board
108 of Education. Academic courses within the career track of the
109 standard diploma shall provide the knowledge and skill necessary
110 for proficiency on the state subject area tests.

111 (3) Nothing in this section shall disallow the development
112 of a dual enrollment program with a technical college so long as
113 an individual school district, with approval from the State
114 Department of Education, agrees to implement such a program in
115 connection with a technical college and the agreement is also
116 approved by the proprietary school's commission.

117 (4) The career track program for students not pursuing a
118 Baccalaureate Degree shall not be available to any student
119 entering the Ninth Grade in the 2017-2018 school year or
120 thereafter.

121 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-23-147, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
122 amended as follows:

123 37-23-147. (1) The State Department of Education shall
124 establish goals for the performance of * * * students with



125 disabilities that will promote the purpose of IDEA and are
126 consistent, to the maximum extent appropriate, with other goals
127 and standards for * * * students established by the State
128 Department of Education. Performance indicators used to assess
129 progress toward achieving those goals that, at a minimum, address
130 the performance of * * * students with disabilities on
131 assessments, drop-out rates, and graduation rates shall be
132 developed. Every two (2) years, the progress toward meeting the
133 established performance goals shall be reported to the public.

134 (2) To encourage the full inclusion of * * * students with
135 disabilities in all aspects of academic and extracurricular
136 activities, the State Department of Education * * * may provide
137 special recognition to the schools receiving such designation and
138 their school districts. Examples of such recognition may include,
139 but not be limited to: public announcements and events,
140 certificates of recognition and plaques for teachers, principals,
141 superintendents and parents, and media announcements utilizing the
142 services of Mississippi Educational Television. This special
143 recognition * * * may be awarded to * * * elementary, * * *
144 middle * * * or high schools, based on entries submitted to the
145 Mississippi Special Education Advisory * * * Panel by the
146 deadline * * * to be determined annually by the panel. These
147 entries shall be in the form of a report, * * * listing the name,
148 address and telephone number of the school district/school;
149 teacher or staff responsible for administering the program; type



150 of position held by each of these employees including credentials;
151 description of the program; number of students with disabilities
152 included; type and level of severity of disabilities; number of
153 students without disabilities involved in the program; how long
154 the program has been in operation; benefit of program to all
155 students; and a description of how this program could be
156 replicated by other school districts. Winners of the Exemplary
157 Inclusion Program contest shall be chosen annually by the
158 Mississippi Special Education Advisory * * * Panel at a date
159 determined by the panel.

160 Recognition * * * may be given to these schools during * * *
161 a meeting of the Mississippi State Board of Education * * * at a
162 date determined by the board. Information on these exemplary
163 programs shall be provided to other school districts and the
164 general public through news releases, the state department
165 website, and other similar avenues.

166 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
167 and after July 1, 2017.

