

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 456

1 AN ACT TO IMPROVE MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE INSTRUCTION IN
2 MISSISSIPPI'S PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOLS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND
3 ADOPTION OF NEW LEARNING STANDARDS; TO REQUIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL
4 PROGRAMS, DIRECTLY OR IN COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES OR
5 OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TO ENHANCE THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE AND WORK
6 OPPORTUNITY POSSIBILITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds that significant
9 efforts are under way to improve mathematics and science
10 instruction in Mississippi's public schools through development
11 and adoption of new learning standards, identification of aligned
12 curriculum and expanded opportunities for professional development
13 for teachers. A significant emphasis also has been placed on
14 improving career and technical education programs focused on
15 high-demand programs. Middle schools successfully have served
16 students in career and technical programs rich in science,
17 technology, engineering and mathematics. The Legislature
18 concludes that opportunities for hands-on and applied learning in
19 these programs should be extended to middle school students on an
20 ongoing, statewide basis so that all students are prepared to take



21 advantage of more advanced coursework in high school and
22 postsecondary education.

23 **SECTION 2.** (1) All public middle schools shall provide a
24 program, directly or in cooperation with a community or junior
25 college or another school district, for students whose educational
26 plans include application for entrance to a baccalaureate degree
27 granting institution after being granted a high school diploma.
28 The program must be designed to help these students meet at least
29 the minimum college entrance requirements.

30 (2) All middle schools of the state shall provide a program,
31 directly or in cooperation with a community or junior college,
32 skills center, apprenticeship program or another school district,
33 for students who plan to pursue career or work opportunities other
34 than entrance to a baccalaureate degree granting institution after
35 being granted a high school diploma. These programs must:

36 (a) Help students demonstrate the application of
37 essential academic learning requirements to the world of work,
38 occupation-specific skills, knowledge of more than one (1) career
39 in a chosen pathway, and employability and leadership skills; and

40 (b) Help students demonstrate the knowledge and skill
41 needed to prepare for industry certification or matriculation to
42 postsecondary education and training programs.

43 (3) A middle school that receives approval from the State
44 Department of Education to provide a career and technical program
45 in science, technology, engineering or mathematics directly to



46 students shall receive necessary funding to operate this program.
47 Additionally, a middle school that provides a hands-on experience
48 in science, technology, engineering or mathematics with an
49 integrated curriculum of academic content and career and technical
50 education which includes a career and technical education
51 exploratory component also shall qualify for career and technical
52 education funding.

53 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2018.

