

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 488

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A WRITING  
3 CURRICULUM FOR USE BY EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT WHICH MANDATES  
4 INSTRUCTION IN MANUSCRIPT HANDWRITING TECHNIQUES, AS WELL AS IN  
5 CURSIVE HANDWRITING, IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-13-10. (1) The State Board of Education is authorized  
11 and directed to require all public school districts to meet the  
12 following elementary education curriculum standard: The standard  
13 course of study shall include a writing curriculum developed by  
14 the board for use by all school districts. The board shall  
15 establish rules and regulations to be followed by districts in the  
16 implementation of the writing curriculum. The curriculum standard  
17 must include the following:

18 (a) The requirement that the public schools provide  
19 instruction in the fundamentals of manuscript handwriting  
20 techniques at the age and grade level determined by the State



21 Department of Education to be the most appropriate for beginning  
22 instruction in manuscript handwriting; and

23         **(b)** The requirement that the public schools provide  
24 instruction in cursive reading and writing, implemented across the  
25 curriculum, so that students create readable documents through  
26 legible cursive handwriting by the end of the fifth grade, and  
27 that students pass with proficiency a teacher-constructed test  
28 demonstrating the students competency in both reading and writing  
29 cursive. This requirement shall be applicable beginning with the  
30 2018-2019 school year.

31         **(2)** The provisions of this section shall not be applicable  
32 to the Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School  
33 for the Deaf.

34         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
35 and after July 1, 2018.

