

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 505

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLANNING
 2 PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH A PRECOLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM IN
 3 ORDER TO LOWER EDUCATIONAL COSTS, SHORTEN A STUDENT'S TIME
 4 REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A DEGREE AND INCREASE THE OVERALL SUCCESS
 5 RATE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS BY REDUCING THE NEED FOR REMEDIATION; TO
 6 REQUIRE ALL EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE ACT ASPIRE SUMMATIVE
 7 ASSESSMENT AND TENTH GRADE STUDENTS TO TAKE THE PRACT OR PSAT FOR
 8 THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THAT STUDENTS HAVE THE CAREER READINESS
 9 SKILLS NECESSARY TO COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY; AND FOR RELATED
 10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds that:

13 (a) Many students enter college unprepared for the
 14 academic rigors of college and require noncredit remedial courses
 15 to attain skills and knowledge needed for regular credit
 16 coursework;

17 (b) There is a direct and significant link between
 18 students being prepared for college academically and success in
 19 postsecondary endeavors;

20 (c) Remediation lengthens the time required to obtain a
 21 degree, imposes additional costs on students and colleges, and



22 uses student financial aid for courses that do not count toward a
23 degree;

24 (d) A precollege readiness assessment program in public
25 high schools using PreACT or PSAT assessments will provide early
26 benchmarks for student performance on college readiness exams and
27 inform high school guidance counselors and teachers who assist
28 students with academic achievement, course selection and college
29 readiness skills;

30 (e) A precollege readiness assessment program will
31 provide reportable statewide data, enabling policy and program
32 development that will benefit schools, parents and students; and

33 (f) Consistent use of precollege assessments will
34 increase the number of successful student transitions into
35 postsecondary education.

36 **SECTION 2.** (1) The following words and phrases have the
37 meanings ascribed in this subsection unless the context clearly
38 indicates otherwise:

39 (a) "ACT Aspire Summative Assessment" means the system
40 of annual vertically articulated, standards-based assessments
41 linked to the ACT college entrance exam.

42 (b) "College readiness assessment" means a test of
43 student educational development that measures student readiness
44 for future learning which is used by:

45 (i) State institutions of higher learning as part
46 of their admissions, placement and scholarship processes; and



47 (ii) High schools to improve college and workforce
48 readiness.

49 (c) "College and career readiness" means that a student
50 is academically ready to succeed in college-level courses or in
51 the workforce without the need to enroll in remedial courses
52 during the student's first year.

53 (d) "PreACT" means the assessment for students in Grade
54 10 which simulates the ACT testing experience and can be used as
55 an indicator of college and career readiness, assessing each
56 student's areas of strength and where improvement is needed.

57 (e) "PSAT" means the Preliminary SAT/National Merit
58 Scholarship Qualifying Test that provides practice for the SAT
59 Reasoning Test and gives students feedback on individual strengths
60 and weaknesses on college readiness skills.

61 (2) (a) (i) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each
62 public school that serves students in Grade 8 shall administer the
63 ACT Aspire Summative Assessment to each student enrolled in Grade
64 8 at the public school.

65 (ii) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year,
66 each public school that serves students in Grade 10 shall
67 administer the PreACT or PSAT to each student enrolled in Grade 10
68 at the public school.

69 (b) Funding for the college readiness assessments
70 listed in this subsection may be paid by using State Department of
71 Education at-risk funding.



72 (3) (a) Each public school administering the college
73 readiness assessments under this section shall use the college
74 readiness assessments to assist students with college and
75 workforce readiness skills, course selection in high school and
76 improved academic achievement.

77 (b) By the 2020-2021 school year, each public school
78 shall fully incorporate the results from college readiness
79 assessments listed in subsection (2)(a) of this section into the
80 college and career planning process for each student.

81 (4) Data collection must be maintained by the State
82 Department of Education for the purpose of:

- 83 (a) Increasing college and career readiness skills;
- 84 (b) Improving instruction;
- 85 (c) Enhancing school improvement plans; and
- 86 (d) Reducing the college remediation rates of students.

87 (5) The State Department of Education shall report to the
88 House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education
89 before October 1, 2022, and each year thereafter, on the
90 implementation and effectiveness of the College and Career
91 Readiness Planning Program.

92 (6) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this
93 section and shall monitor the use of college readiness assessments
94 administered under this section to ensure public school
95 compliance.



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

