By: Senator(s) Tollison   To: Education;
                                           Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2096

1   AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
2 EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY K-12 COMPUTER
3 SCIENCE CURRICULUM WHICH INCLUDES INSTRUCTION IN COMPUTER CODING;
4 TO PRESCRIBE MINIMUM COMPONENTS OF THE CURRICULUM; TO PROVIDE FOR
5 TEACHER TRAINING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7   **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Department of Education is

8 authorized and directed to develop and implement a mandatory K-12

9 computer science curriculum which includes instruction in computer

10 coding to be phased in, in all public schools beginning with the

11 2018-2019 school year, as provided in this section.

12   (2) Public schools shall provide students in Grades K-12

13 opportunities for learning computer science, including, but not

14 limited to, computer coding and computer programming. Such

15 opportunities may include coding instruction in elementary school

16 and middle school, instruction to develop students' computer usage

17 and digital literacy skills in middle school, and courses in

18 computer science, computer coding, and computer programming in

19 high school, including earning-related industry certifications.

20   (3) Elementary schools and middle schools may establish

21 digital classrooms in which students are provided opportunities to

22 improve digital literacy and competency; to learn digital skills,

23 such as coding, multiple media presentation, and the manipulation

24 of multiple digital graphic images; and to earn digital tool

25 certificates and certifications and grade-appropriate,

26 technology-related industry certifications.

27   (4) High schools may provide students opportunities to take

28 computer science courses to satisfy high school graduation

29 requirements, including, but not limited to, the following:

30   (a) High school computer science courses of sufficient

31 rigor, as identified by the State Department of Education, such

32 that one (1) credit in computer science and the earning of related

33 industry certifications constitute the equivalent of up to one (1)

34 of the mathematics requirement, with the exception of Algebra I or

35 higher-level mathematics, or up to one (1) credit of the science

36 requirement, with the exception of Biology I or higher-level

37 science, for high school graduation. Computer science courses and

38 technology-related industry certifications may be identified as

39 eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high

40 school graduation.

41   (b) High school computer technology courses in 3D rapid

42 prototype printing of sufficient rigor, as identified by the State

43 Department of Education, such that one or more credits in such

44 courses and related industry certifications earned may satisfy up

45 to two (2) credits of mathematics required for high school

46 graduation with the exception of Algebra I. Computer technology

47 courses in 3D rapid prototype printing and related industry

48 certifications may be identified as eligible for meeting

49 mathematics requirements for high school graduation.

50   (5) The State Department of Education shall provide annual

51 training for teachers and administrators in order to phase in the

52 K-12 Computer Science Curriculum beginning in the 2018-2019 school

53 year. The State Department of Education may contract with private

54 and nonprofit providers for teacher training and for student

55 instruction, and is encouraged to utilize available cost-free

56 computer coding training and instruction. Teachers may receive

57 computer coding training online.

58   (6) The State Board of Education is authorized to promulgate

59 rules and regulations to implement the K-12 computer science

60 curriculum established in this act.

61   **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

62 and after July 1, 2018.

S. B. No. 2096 ||||||||||||||||||||||||| **~ OFFICIAL ~**
18/SS01/R438   ST: Mandatory K-12 computer science curriculum
PAGE 3 (tb\rc)   and computer coding; State Department of
                                Education shall implement.