

By: Senator(s) Caughman

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2124

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A  
 2 FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULUM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON OR BEFORE THE  
 3 2018-2019 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COURSE IN  
 4 FINANCIAL LITERACY SHALL ACCOUNT FOR A ONE-HALF CARNEGIE UNIT; TO  
 5 REQUIRE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE COURSE AS A GRADUATION  
 6 REQUIREMENT; TO ESTABLISH THE "FINANCIAL LITERACY TRUST FUND" AS A  
 7 SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDS  
 8 ADMINISTRATION; TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 9 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED  
 10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Board of Education shall implement  
 13 a financial literacy curriculum on or before the 2018-2019  
 14 academic school year. The curriculum shall require that each  
 15 student take and pass a one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit credit course  
 16 in personal finance in order to earn a high school diploma. This  
 17 section is applicable to all schools, including, but not limited  
 18 to, public charter schools.

19 (2) There is established in the State Treasury a special  
 20 fund to be known as the "Financial Literacy Trust Fund" to provide  
 21 financial literacy education for this program. The fund shall be  
 22 administered by the State Board of Education, shall be eligible to



23 accept private contributions, publicly or privately funded grants,  
24 and funds appropriated by the state or federal government. No  
25 expenditure from the fund shall cause the fund to be in deficiency  
26 at the close of the fiscal year. Unexpended monies remaining in  
27 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse to the  
28 General Fund, but shall be available for expenditure in the  
29 subsequent fiscal year. The fund shall be an expendable trust  
30 fund and shall not be subject to appropriation or allotment.

31 (3) The State Board of Education shall develop rules and  
32 regulations for the implementation of the trust. The trust may  
33 expend funds to administer the fund, which shall include an annual  
34 independent audit of the financial activities of the fund. The  
35 trust may also enter into contracts with private corporations to  
36 manage and implement the programmatic, fiduciary or administrative  
37 goals of the trust subject to the approval of the board. The  
38 trust may also, to the extent necessary, create a 501(c)(3)  
39 corporation to fulfill the purposes of the trust. The board shall  
40 annually report to the Legislature all programmatic and financial  
41 activities and balances of the fund on or before December 31 of  
42 each year.

43 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Banking and Consumer Finance  
44 shall have the authority to contribute a portion of funds  
45 generated from penalties and fees to financial literacy education.

46 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
47 amended as follows:



48           37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall  
49 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all  
50 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

51           (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district  
52 and to make such division between the high school grades and  
53 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best  
54 interests of the school;

55           (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual  
56 training and other special subjects into either the elementary or  
57 high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;

58           (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school  
59 property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the  
60 school term and during vacation;

61           (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing  
62 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary  
63 school improvements;

64           (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the  
65 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school  
66 or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school  
67 property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from  
68 school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct  
69 occurring on property other than school property or other than at  
70 a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil,  
71 in the determination of the school superintendent or principal,  
72 renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the



73 educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best  
74 interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a  
75 whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials  
76 of the school district;

77 (f) To visit schools in the district, in their  
78 discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be  
79 done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

80 (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the  
81 superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the  
82 proper discipline of the school;

83 (h) To exclude from the schools students with what  
84 appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided,  
85 however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon  
86 presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly  
87 licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free  
88 from such disease;

89 (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the  
90 State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37;

91 (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services  
92 are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;

93 (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and  
94 grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the  
95 people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;

96 (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not  
97 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board



98 of Education for their own government and for the government of  
99 the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special  
100 meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

101 (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under  
102 their control for such length of time during the year as may be  
103 required;

104 (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and  
105 the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;

106 (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of  
107 schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes  
108 on any available funds of the district and to have full control of  
109 the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds  
110 provided for the support and operation of the schools of such  
111 school district whether such funds be derived from state  
112 appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise.  
113 The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to  
114 promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims  
115 and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the  
116 superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next  
117 regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;

118 (p) To select all school district personnel in the  
119 manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe  
120 benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may  
121 be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;



122 (q) To provide athletic programs and other school  
123 activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such  
124 programs and activities;

125 (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of  
126 school boards and other public school-related organizations, and  
127 to pay from local funds other than minimum foundation funds, any  
128 membership dues;

129 (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other  
130 available school district funds, other than minimum education  
131 program funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph.  
132 "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials  
133 in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any  
134 school activity, such activity being part of the school program  
135 and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public  
136 funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds  
137 raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a  
138 bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether  
139 the funds were raised by school employees or received by school  
140 employees during school hours or using school facilities, and  
141 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over  
142 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall  
143 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of  
144 any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school  
145 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be  
146 beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the



147 school. For the purposes of this provision, the term  
148 "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the  
149 control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may  
150 only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,  
151 including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in  
152 attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,  
153 conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel  
154 expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local  
155 school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial  
156 to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,  
157 including items which may subsequently become the personal  
158 property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,  
159 book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay  
160 travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school  
161 governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate  
162 rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes  
163 school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing  
164 board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be  
165 maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating  
166 the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school  
167 activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the  
168 superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the  
169 board. The local school governing board shall provide that such  
170 school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit  
171 required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education



172 shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial  
173 reporting for all school activity fund transactions;

174 (t) To enter into an energy performance contract,  
175 energy services contract, on a shared-savings, lease or  
176 lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or  
177 equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14;

178 (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on  
179 school food service bank accounts;

180 (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual,  
181 partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit  
182 corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend  
183 funds therefor as may be available from any nonminimum program  
184 sources. The school board of the school district desiring to  
185 lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need  
186 exists for a school building and that the school district cannot  
187 provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate  
188 share of the cost of a school building required to meet the  
189 present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board  
190 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks  
191 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district  
192 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less  
193 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school  
194 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If  
195 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting  
196 as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution





197 spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If  
198 at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less  
199 than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is  
200 less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved  
201 shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election  
202 be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later  
203 than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an  
204 election to be held within such school district upon the question  
205 of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such  
206 election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be  
207 given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the  
208 issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof  
209 shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths  
210 (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted  
211 in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school  
212 building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school  
213 building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty  
214 (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the  
215 amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board  
216 after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the  
217 current fair market value of the lease as determined by the  
218 averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general  
219 appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school  
220 building" as used in this paragraph (v) (i) shall be construed to  
221 mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in



222 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the  
223 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment  
224 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities,  
225 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and  
226 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v) (i)  
227 may include a lease-purchase contract;

228           (ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose  
229 to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the  
230 school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall  
231 be binding on any such school district unless the question of  
232 leasing a school building is approved in each participating school  
233 district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph  
234 (v) (i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v) (i) regarding the  
235 term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school  
236 boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract  
237 executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees  
238 shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid  
239 by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of  
240 occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as  
241 stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees  
242 under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of  
243 lease rental paid by each;

244           (w) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated  
245 employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel



246 deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the  
247 superintendent of schools;

248 (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of  
249 such legal counsel as deemed necessary;

250 (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board  
251 of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other  
252 motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification  
253 required by law;

254 (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute  
255 teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment  
256 and compensation of such substitute teachers;

257 (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real  
258 property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with  
259 the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school  
260 building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real  
261 property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the  
262 school board shall not purchase the property for an amount  
263 exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by  
264 the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by  
265 certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.  
266 If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such  
267 real property in connection with any such project, the board shall  
268 have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by  
269 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,  
270 Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of



271 eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.  
272 Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to  
273 grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section  
274 land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon  
275 adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial  
276 benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the  
277 exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent  
278 appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash  
279 payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land  
280 under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to  
281 be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land  
282 which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any  
283 such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school  
284 district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected  
285 by the easement;

286 (bb) To charge reasonable fees related to the  
287 educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in  
288 Section 37-7-335;

289 (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State  
290 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use  
291 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section  
292 37-1-13;

293 (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other  
294 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities  
295 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school



296 board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources  
297 for providing services to the public;

298 (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees  
299 of the district;

300 (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of  
301 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be  
302 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the  
303 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper  
304 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a  
305 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of  
306 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall  
307 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of  
308 the textbooks;

309 (gg) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of  
310 the school district that the local school board, in its  
311 discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or  
312 extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:

313 (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities  
314 shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as  
315 are other activity funds under this section; and

316 (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or  
317 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the  
318 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for  
319 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall  
320 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the



321 proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the  
322 student activity fund;

323           (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and  
324 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or  
325 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment  
326 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted  
327 by the school board;

328           (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an  
329 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for  
330 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band  
331 instruments and uniforms;

332           (jj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising  
333 activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt  
334 charitable organization;

335           (kk) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably  
336 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;

337           (ll) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts  
338 organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide  
339 performances or other services for the students of the school  
340 district;

341           (mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds,  
342 or any other available funds that are expressly designated and  
343 authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses,  
344 salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local  
345 school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered



346 part of the local supplement as defined in Section 37-151-5(o),  
347 nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement  
348 paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section  
349 37-19-7(1). Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds or any  
350 other state funds may not be used for salary incentives or salary  
351 supplements as provided in this paragraph (mm);

352 (nn) To use any available funds, not appropriated or  
353 designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the  
354 state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who  
355 enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the  
356 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation  
357 of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than  
358 that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into  
359 the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand  
360 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in  
361 the course of relocating, including the expense of any  
362 professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the  
363 move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount  
364 authorized for county and municipal employees under Section  
365 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or  
366 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated  
367 with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for  
368 moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion  
369 by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be  
370 construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed



371 employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school  
372 district that has executed a contract for employment in order for  
373 the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the  
374 moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate  
375 within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual  
376 receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher  
377 Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible  
378 to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this  
379 paragraph;

380           (oo) To use any available funds, not appropriated or  
381 designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who  
382 interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district  
383 for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course  
384 of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for  
385 county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;

386           (pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to  
387 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve  
388 school district management and use of resources and identify cost  
389 savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,  
390 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews  
391 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.  
392 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and  
393 local officials and the public with the following:

394           (i) An assessment of a school district's  
395 governance and organizational structure;





396 (ii) An assessment of the school district's  
397 financial and personnel management;

398 (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources;

399 (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization,  
400 planning and maintenance;

401 (v) An assessment of food services, transportation  
402 and safety/security systems;

403 (vi) An assessment of instructional and  
404 administrative technology;

405 (vii) A review of the instructional management and  
406 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional  
407 programs; and

408 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing  
409 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to  
410 the public;

411 (qq) To enter into agreements with other local school  
412 boards for the establishment of an educational service agency  
413 (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which  
414 the school district is located, as provided in Section 37-7-345;

415 (rr) To implement a financial literacy program for  
416 students in Grades 9, 10 \* \* \*, 11 or 12 as each local school  
417 board deems most appropriate. The board may review the national  
418 programs and obtain free literature from various nationally  
419 recognized programs. After review of the different programs, the  
420 board \* \* \* shall certify a program that is most appropriate for



421 the school districts' needs. \* \* \* Students in Grades 9, 10, 11  
422 or 12 shall participate in the program to be implemented in all  
423 schools. The financial literacy program shall include, but is not  
424 limited to, instruction in the same areas of personal business and  
425 finance as required under Section 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board  
426 may coordinate with volunteer teachers from local community  
427 organizations, including, but not limited to, the following:  
428 United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, United  
429 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, \* \* \* bankers  
430 and other nonprofit organizations. \* \* \* The financial literacy  
431 program \* \* \* shall further include:

- 432 (i) Decision making;
- 433 (ii) Earning an income;
- 434 (iii) Saving and spending;
- 435 (iv) Use of credit; and
- 436 (v) Budgeting;

437 (ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,  
438 Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to  
439 develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for  
440 a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social,  
441 and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children.  
442 The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to  
443 fund the voluntary program. Effective with the 2013-2014 school  
444 year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under the



445 Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state funds  
446 awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching basis;

447 (tt) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of  
448 a school district, including, but not limited to, leases  
449 (excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land),  
450 bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the  
451 obligee that the Department of Revenue or any state agency,  
452 department or commission created under state law may:

453 (i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the  
454 school board) of any monies which such local school board is  
455 entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is  
456 in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state  
457 agency, department or commission created under state law; and

458 (ii) Pay the same over to any financial  
459 institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by  
460 the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the  
461 school district.

462 The school board may make such written agreement to withhold  
463 and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written  
464 obligation and may include in the written agreement any other  
465 terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the  
466 school board files a copy of such written agreement with the  
467 Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or  
468 commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue  
469 or any state agency, department or commission created under state



470 law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such  
471 agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall  
472 continue to pay the same over to such financial institution,  
473 trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

474 This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a  
475 school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory  
476 limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such  
477 school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities,  
478 and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect  
479 a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not  
480 be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust  
481 land;

482 (uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is  
483 competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder  
484 as a good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type  
485 of good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be  
486 accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on  
487 similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph  
488 (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public  
489 school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment  
490 of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of  
491 investments, including pooled investments, as any other political  
492 subdivision, including community hospitals;

493 (vv) To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance  
494 or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a



495 partial or other undivided interest in the property, as  
496 specifically authorized and provided in Section 37-7-485;

497 (ww) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a  
498 contract with private entities for the operation of any and all  
499 functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations  
500 including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial  
501 services, transportation, professional development, achievement  
502 and instructional consulting services materials and products,  
503 purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,  
504 auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,  
505 data processing and student records, and other staff services;  
506 however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the  
507 leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.  
508 Local school districts, working through their regional education  
509 service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with  
510 other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of  
511 state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;

512 (xx) To partner with entities, organizations and  
513 corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district;

514 (yy) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic  
515 Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings;

516 (zz) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood  
517 education programs, defined as programs for children less than  
518 five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any  
519 source of revenue for such early childhood education programs.



520 Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning  
521 Collaborative Act of 2013;

522 (aaa) To issue and provide for the use of procurement  
523 cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school  
524 personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the  
525 Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section  
526 31-7-9; and

527 (bbb) To conduct an annual comprehensive evaluation of  
528 the superintendent of schools consistent with the assessment  
529 components of paragraph (pp) of this section and the assessment  
530 benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Board Association  
531 to evaluate the success the superintendent has attained in meeting  
532 district goals and objectives, the superintendent's leadership  
533 skill and whether or not the superintendent has established  
534 appropriate standards for performance, is monitoring success and  
535 is using data for improvement.

536 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
537 and after July 1, 2018.

