

By: Representative Scott

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 201

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
 2 ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO BE KNOWN AS "A BETTER CHANCE" OR THE "ABC
 3 PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PREKINDERGARTEN INSTRUCTION
 4 THROUGHOUT THE STATE VIA THE INTERNET; TO REQUIRE THE PROGRAM TO
 5 INCLUDE CERTAIN COMPONENTS, INCLUDING THE DAILY DELIVERY OF
 6 REAL-TIME INSTRUCTION BY A LICENSED PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER; TO
 7 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
 8 REGULARLY PARTICIPATING IN THE ABC PROGRAM AND TO REPORT TO THE
 9 HOUSE AND SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES ON THE PROGRAM BEFORE
 10 JANUARY 1, 2021; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Department of Education shall
 13 establish and implement a program to be known as "A Better Chance"
 14 or the "ABC Program," the purpose of which is to make
 15 prekindergarten instruction available to all children and their
 16 families or caregivers throughout the state. The ABC Program will
 17 be in addition to the voluntary prekindergarten program
 18 established by the State Department of Education under Section
 19 37-21-51. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the ABC
 20 Program of instruction must be delivered via the Internet and must
 21 consist of daily age-appropriate instruction and activities,
 22 including downloadable educational materials, for children and



23 their parents based on the comprehensive early learning standards
24 adopted by the State Board of Education.

25 (2) The ABC Program must include a daily period of real-time
26 instruction during which a licensed prekindergarten teacher
27 delivers instruction via the Internet. The department shall
28 determine the duration of the period of real-time instruction. In
29 order to afford parents and caregivers the greatest opportunity to
30 avail children of the prekindergarten instruction, the daily
31 lessons and activities presented during the real-time period of
32 instruction must be scheduled for no less than three (3) different
33 times each school day. At all other times, the period of
34 instruction must be available on the ABC Program's webpage for
35 replay.

36 (3) The department shall develop a method to determine the
37 number of children throughout the state who regularly participate
38 in the ABC Program and to assess the progress being made by those
39 children. Before January 1, 2021, the department shall submit a
40 report to the Education Committees of the House and Senate on the
41 success of the ABC Program.

42 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
43 and after July 1, 2019.

