

AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO

Am #1

SENATE BILL NO. 2286

Bednett &

BY: Representative Cockerham

*by deleting all language from lines 14 thru 312 and
[in lieu thereof]*

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AMEND

inserting the following:

SECTION 2. Section 37-179-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-179-1. (1) For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "District of innovation" means a district that has developed a plan of innovation in compliance with this section and has been approved by the State Board of Education to be exempted from certain administrative regulations and statutory provisions to improve the educational performance of students within the district;

(b) "Innovation" means a new or creative alternative to existing instructional and administrative practices intended to

15 improve student learning and student performance of all students,
16 including community schools;

17 (c) "School of innovation" means a school that
18 voluntarily participates in a district of innovation plan to
19 improve instruction, including waivers and exemptions from local
20 school board policies, selected provisions of rules and
21 regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education, and
22 selected sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as permitted
23 under this section and Section * * * 37-179-3;

24 (d) "Board" means the State Board of Education;

25 (e) "Department" means the State Department of
26 Education.

27 (f) "Community school" means a traditional district
28 public school that partners with community-based organizations to
29 coordinate academic, social, physical health and mental health
30 services, to reduce barriers to learning and improve education
31 outcomes. Community schools include all five (5) of the
32 following:

33 (i) Integrated student supports coordinated by a
34 community school director, which may include, but are not limited
35 to:

36 1. Medical, dental, vision care and mental
37 health services; or

38 2. Counselors to assist with housing,
39 transportation, nutrition, or criminal justice issues;

40 (ii) Expanded and enriched learning time and
41 opportunities including before school, after school, weekend and
42 summer programs, which provide additional academic instruction,
43 individualized academic support, enrichment activities, and
44 learning opportunities that emphasize real-world learning and
45 community problem solving, and which may include, but are not
46 limited to:

- 47 1. Art, music, drama and creative writing;
- 48 2. Hands-on experience with engineering or
49 science;
- 50 3. Tutoring and homework help; and
- 51 4. Recreational programs that enhance and are
52 consistent with the school's curriculum;

53 (iii) Active family and community engagement which
54 brings students' families and the community into the school as
55 partners in children's education and makes the school a
56 neighborhood hub, providing adults with educational opportunities
57 they want, including, but not limited to:

- 58 1. English as a second language class;
- 59 2. Citizenship preparation;
- 60 3. Computer skills;
- 61 4. Art;
- 62 5. GED classes; or
- 63 6. Other programs that bring community
64 members into the building for meetings or events;

65 (iv) Include, as a meaningful part of its
66 curriculum, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
67 (STEM) program component commensurate and appropriate to the grade
68 level of the school; and

69 (v) Collaborative leadership and practices, which
70 build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and
71 shared responsibility using strategies which shall, at a minimum,
72 include:

- 73 1. A school-based leadership team;
74 2. A community school director; and
75 3. A community-wide leadership team, which

76 may include, but not limited to:

- 77 A. Other leadership and governance
78 teams;
79 B. Teacher learning communities; and
80 C. Other staff to manage the multiple,
81 complex, joint work of school and community organizations.

82 (g) "Community School Director" means a person who:

83 (i) Is a full-time staff member serving one (1)
84 eligible school;

85 (ii) Is responsible for the identification,
86 implementation and coordination of integrated student supports,
87 expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities, family and
88 community engagement and collaborative leadership and practices;

- 89 (iii) Serves as a member of the school-based
90 leadership team;
91 (iv) Serves as the lead for the needs and assets
92 assessment and community school plan; and
93 (v) Coordinates the needs and assets assessment
94 and stakeholder-driven approach to problem-solving and continuous
95 improvement.

96 (2) The State Board of Education is authorized to approve
97 districts of innovation for the purposes of improving students'
98 educational performance. Districts of innovation shall be
99 provided flexibility from selected board regulations, Title 37,
100 Mississippi Code of 1972, and local school board policies for
101 school administrators, teachers and staff to meet the diverse
102 needs of students. A low-performing school or school district
103 managing the transition of multiple schools to the community
104 school model shall be provided a three-year transition before
105 becoming eligible for state takeover. The initial approval of a
106 district of innovation shall be for a five-year period. Each
107 renewal of a district of innovation shall not exceed five (5)
108 years and shall comply with administrative regulations promulgated
109 by the board pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

110 (3) The board shall promulgate administrative rules and
111 regulations to prescribe the conditions and procedures to be used
112 by a local school board to be approved as a district of innovation
113 and shall publish the same on or before December 31, 2015.

114 (4) Administrative rules and regulations promulgated by the
115 board under subsection (3) of this section shall specify:

116 (a) The regulatory areas which may be exempted or
117 modified if approved by the board, except as provided in Section
118 37-179-3(2), and in addition to those areas identified in Section
119 37-179-3(3);

120 (b) The application, plan review, approval and
121 amendment process for a district;

122 (c) Timelines for initial approval as a district of
123 innovation, the renewal process and ongoing evaluative procedures
124 required of the district;

125 (d) Acceptable documentation of a critical mass of
126 parental, community, educator and business support and capacity to
127 effect a change;

128 (e) Evidence of teacher collaboration and shared
129 leadership within the district and the schools to be designated as
130 schools of innovation;

131 (f) The process of revocation of the designation of
132 district of innovation or school of innovation;

133 (g) Reporting and oversight responsibilities of the
134 district and the State Department of Education;

135 (h) The financial detail relating to budgets of schools
136 and evidence of sound fiscal management practices;

137 (i) Acceptable areas of emphasis for innovation;

138 (j) Acceptable documentation of job-embedded
139 professional development within the proposed innovation design;
140 and

141 (k) Other components deemed necessary to implement this
142 section and Section 37-179-3.

143 **SECTION 37-179-3.** Section 37-179-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
144 amended as follows:

145 37-179-3. (1) A district which is an applicant to be
146 designated as a district of innovation under Section 37-179-1
147 shall:

148 (a) Establish goals and performance targets for the
149 district of innovation proposal, which may include:

150 (i) Reducing socio-economic achievement gaps among
151 groups of public school students by expanding learning experiences
152 for students who are identified as academically low-achieving;

153 (ii) Increasing pupil learning through the
154 implementation of high, rigorous standards for pupil performance;

155 (iii) Increasing student attendance rates as well
156 as reducing chronic absenteeism;

157 (iv) Decreasing rates of student suspensions and
158 expulsions;

159 (* * *v) Increasing the participation of students
160 in various curriculum components and instructional components
161 within selected schools to enhance at each grade level;

162 (* * *vi) Increasing the number of students who
163 are college and career-ready and who have access to
164 dual-enrollment courses;

165 (vii) Increasing student college preparation to
166 enter secondary education in the areas of science, technology,
167 engineering and mathematics.

168 (* * *viii) Motivating students at different
169 grade levels by offering more curriculum choices and student
170 learning opportunities to parents and students within the
171 district;

172 (b) Make public its goals and performance targets and,
173 after five (5) years, share the performance target results with
174 members of the Mississippi House and Senate Education Committees,
175 as well as with the general public;

176 (* * *c) Identify changes needed from a comprehensive
177 needs and assets assessment in the district and schools to lead to
178 better prepared students for success in college, career and
179 life * * *;

180 (* * *d) Have a districtwide plan of innovation that
181 describes and justifies which schools and innovative practices
182 will be incorporated;

183 (* * *e) Provide documentation of community, educator,
184 parental, and the local board's support of the proposed
185 innovations;

186 (* * *f) Provide detailed information regarding the
187 rationale of requests for waivers from Title 37, Mississippi Code
188 of 1972, which relate to the elementary and secondary education of
189 public school students, and administrative regulations, and
190 exemptions for selected schools regarding waivers of local school
191 board policies;

192 (* * *g) Document the fiscal and human resources the
193 board will provide throughout the term of the implementation of
194 the innovations within its plan; and

195 (* * *h) Provide other materials as required by the
196 department in compliance with the board's administrative
197 regulations and application procedures.

198 (2) The district and all schools participating in a
199 district's innovation plan shall:

200 (a) Ensure the same health, safety, civil rights, and
201 disability rights requirements as are applied to all public
202 schools;

203 (b) Ensure students meet compulsory attendance
204 requirements under Sections 37-13-91 and 37-13-92;

205 (c) Ensure that high school course offerings meet or
206 exceed the minimum required under Sections 37-16-7 and 37-3-49,
207 for high school graduation or meet early graduation requirements
208 that may be enacted by the Mississippi Legislature;

209 (d) Ensure the student performance standards meet or
210 exceed those adopted by the State Board of Education as required

211 by Sections 37-3-49, 37-16-3 and 37-17-6, including compliance
212 with the statewide assessment system specified in Chapter 16,
213 Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972;

214 (e) Adhere to the same financial audits, audit
215 procedures, and audit requirements as are applied under Section
216 7-7-211(e);

217 (f) Require state and criminal background checks for
218 staff and volunteers as required of all public school employees
219 and volunteers within the public schools and specified in Section
220 37-9-17;

221 (g) Comply with open records and open meeting
222 requirements under Sections 25-41-1 et seq. and 25-61-1 et seq.;

223 (h) Comply with purchasing requirements and limitations
224 under Chapter 39, Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972;

225 (i) Provide overall instructional time that is
226 equivalent to or greater than that required under Sections 37-1-11
227 and 37-13-67, but which may include on-site instruction, distance
228 learning, online courses, and work-based learning on
229 nontraditional school days or hours; and

230 (j) Provide data to the department as deemed necessary
231 to generate school and district reports.

232 (3) (a) Only schools that choose to be designated as
233 schools of innovation shall be included in a district's
234 application;

235 (b) As used in this paragraph, "eligible employees"
236 means employees that are regularly employed at the school and
237 those employees whose primary job duties will be affected by the
238 plan; and

239 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of
240 this subsection, a local school board may require a school that
241 has been identified as a persistently low-achieving school under
242 provisions of Section 37-17-6 to participate in the district's
243 plan of innovation.

244 (4) Notwithstanding any statutes to the contrary, the board
245 may approve the requests of districts of innovation to:

246 (a) Use capital outlay funds for operational costs;

247 (b) Hire persons for classified positions in
248 nontraditional school and district assignments who have bachelors
249 and advanced degrees from postsecondary education institutions
250 accredited by a regional accrediting association (Southern
251 Association of Colleges and Schools) or by an organization
252 affiliated with the National Commission on Accrediting;

253 (c) Employ teachers on extended employment contracts or
254 extra duty contracts and compensate them on a salary schedule
255 other than the single salary schedule;

256 (d) Extend the school days as is appropriate within the
257 district with compensation for the employees as determined
258 locally;

259 (e) Establish alternative education programs and
260 services that are delivered in nontraditional hours and which may
261 be jointly provided in cooperation with another school district or
262 consortia of districts;

263 (f) Establish online classes within the district for
264 delivering alternative classes in a blended environment to meet
265 high school graduation requirements;

266 (g) Use a flexible school calendar;

267 (h) Convert existing schools into schools of
268 innovation; * * *

269 (i) Modify the formula under Section 37-151-7 for
270 distributing support education funds for students in average daily
271 attendance in nontraditional programming time, including
272 alternative programs and virtual programs. Funds granted to a
273 district shall not exceed those that would have otherwise been
274 distributed based on average daily attendance during regular
275 instructional days * * *;

276 (j) Allow community schools to seek and accept gifts,
277 grants, donations, and funds from federal and state agencies,
278 private foundations, organizations, or individuals for purposes
279 related to its function as a community school.

280 **AMEND FURTHER THE TITLE** *by deleting lines 1 thru 11 and*
281 following: inserting the *in lieu thereof*

282 "TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-179-1 AND 37-179-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
283 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE THE
284 CREATION OF DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS

285 . RELATED TO "DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION"; TO LIMIT THE INITIAL
286 APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT RENEWALS OF DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION TO
287 FIVE-YEAR PERIODS; TO DIRECT THE BOARD TO PROMULGATE
288 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PRESCRIBE THE CONDITIONS
289 AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED BY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO BE APPROVED AS
290 A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION; TO SPECIFY THE CRITERIA TO BE ADDRESSED
291 BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; TO PRESCRIBE THE REQUIREMENTS
292 FOR A DISTRICT TO BE A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION APPLICANT; TO
293 PRESCRIBE THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS WITH WHICH SCHOOLS OF
294 INNOVATION WITHIN DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION MUST COMPLY; TO IDENTIFY
295 AREAS IN WHICH DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION MAY REQUEST APPROVAL OF
296 PRACTICES THAT ARE DIFFERENT THAN CURRENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS"