

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 45

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO EMPLOY LICENSED  
2 SOCIAL WORKERS AND LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO  
3 STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
4 THAT EMPLOYS AT LEAST ONE SOCIAL WORKER OR PSYCHOLOGIST FOR EVERY  
5 ONE THOUSAND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT IS  
6 ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE COST OF THE  
7 SALARY OF EACH SOCIAL WORKER OR PSYCHOLOGIST FROM THE STATE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of a school district may  
11 employ licensed social workers and licensed psychologists to  
12 provide services to students enrolled in and in attendance at the  
13 schools of the school district, as determined by the  
14 superintendent of the district. The school board shall fix the  
15 compensation of a social worker or psychologist employed by the  
16 district under this section.

17 (2) A school district that employs at least one (1) social  
18 worker or psychologist for every one thousand (1,000) students  
19 enrolled in the schools of the district is eligible for  
20 reimbursement for fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the salary of  
21 each social worker or psychologist from the State Department of



22 Education. The superintendent of any school district that is  
23 eligible for the reimbursement under this section shall apply to  
24 the State Department of Education for the reimbursement in a  
25 manner prescribed by the department. After receipt of an  
26 application for reimbursement and any information that may be  
27 required by the department, the department shall pay to the school  
28 district an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the  
29 salary of each social worker and psychologist for whom the  
30 district is eligible to be reimbursed. In making reimbursements  
31 to school districts for employing social workers and  
32 psychologists, the department may use any funds specifically made  
33 available for that purpose.

34 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
35 and after July 1, 2020.

