

By: Representative Hines

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 52

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COMPREHENSIVE COURSE IN MISSISSIPPI
 2 HISTORY AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO BE TAUGHT TO ALL STUDENTS
 3 IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL
 4 SCHOOLS AND HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE DISCONTINUATION OF
 5 END-OF-COURSE SUBJECT AREA TEST IN UNITED STATES HISTORY; TO AMEND
 6 SECTIONS 37-16-7, 37-3-49, 37-15-38, 37-16-17 AND 37-35-3,
 7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING
 8 PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** In addition to the curriculum otherwise required
 11 by law or the State Board of Education to be taught in the public
 12 schools of this state, comprehensive courses in Mississippi
 13 History and United States Government are required for all students
 14 to be administered between Grades 9 through 12. The Mississippi
 15 History course must provide students with an examination of the
 16 history of the State of Mississippi from the age of discovery and
 17 colonization to the present with particular emphasis on the
 18 significant political, social, economic and cultural issues of the
 19 nineteenth and twentieth centuries which have impacted the diverse
 20 ethnic and racial populations of the state. Similarly, all
 21 private, parochial and home-based school programs shall provide



22 the same curriculum requirements to students enrolled in Grades 9
23 through 12, as prescribed in this section. The courses shall be
24 taught on a semester basis and shall account as a one-half (1/2)
25 Carnegie unit.

26 **SECTION 2.** Beginning in the 2021 school year, the State
27 Board of Education shall cease to require the administration of
28 the end-of-course subject area test in United States History, and
29 shall only require the administration of subject area tests for
30 courses in English II, Algebra I and Biology. The State Board of
31 Education shall adopt a policy abolishing the requirement of
32 administration of the United States History end-of-course subject
33 area test to all public high school students, which in previous
34 academic years, has been required for a student to meet the
35 requirements for a standard Mississippi high school diploma and as
36 a factor in accountability ratings.

37 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
38 amended as follows:

39 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
40 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
41 minimum:

42 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by
43 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of
44 Education * * *; and



45 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
46 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
47 school board.

48 (* * *2) The school board of each school district shall
49 maintain, by school, information on high school graduation rates.
50 High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty percent (80%)
51 must submit a detailed plan to the * * * State Department of
52 Education to restructure the high school experience to improve
53 graduation rates.

54 (* * *3) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
55 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
56 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

57 (* * *4) The State Board of Education may establish student
58 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to
59 graduation.

60 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-3-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
61 amended as follows:

62 37-3-49. (1) The State Department of Education shall
63 provide an instructional program and establish guidelines and
64 procedures for managing such program in the public schools within
65 the school districts throughout the state as part of the State
66 Program of Educational Accountability and Assessment of
67 Performance as prescribed in Section 37-3-46. Public school
68 districts may (a) elect to adopt the instructional program and
69 management system provided by the State Department of Education,



70 or (b) elect to adopt an instructional program and management
71 system which meets or exceeds criteria established by the State
72 Department of Education for such. This provision shall begin with
73 the courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain skills tested
74 through the Mississippi Basic Skills Assessment Program and shall
75 proceed through all secondary school courses mandated for
76 graduation and all secondary school courses in the * * *
77 end-of-course testing program in the subject areas of English II,
78 Algebra I and Biology. Other state core objectives must be
79 included in the district's instructional program as they are
80 provided by the State Department of Education along with
81 instructional practices, resources, evaluation items and
82 management procedures. Districts are encouraged to adapt this
83 program and accompanying procedures to all other instructional
84 areas. The department shall provide that such program and
85 guidelines, or a program and guidelines developed by a local
86 school district which incorporates the core objectives from the
87 curriculum structure are enforced through the performance-based
88 accreditation system. It is the intent of the Legislature that
89 every effort be made to protect the instructional time in the
90 classroom and reduce the amount of paperwork which must be
91 completed by teachers. The State Department of Education shall
92 take steps to insure that school districts properly use staff
93 development time to work on the districts' instructional
94 management plans.



95 (2) The State Department of Education shall provide such
96 instructional program and management guidelines which shall
97 require for every public school district that:

98 (a) All courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain
99 skills which are tested through the Mississippi Basic Skills
100 Assessment Program, all secondary school courses mandated for
101 graduation, and all courses in the end-of-course testing program
102 in the subject areas of English II, Algebra I and Biology shall
103 include the State Department of Education's written list of
104 learning objectives.

105 (b) The local school board must adopt the objectives
106 that will form the core curriculum which will be systematically
107 delivered throughout the district.

108 (c) The set of objectives provided by the State
109 Department of Education must be accompanied by suggested
110 instructional practices and resources that would help teachers
111 organize instruction so as to promote student learning of the
112 objectives. Objectives added by the school district must also be
113 accompanied by suggested instructional practices and resources
114 that would help teachers organize instruction. The instructional
115 practices and resources that are identified are to be used as
116 suggestions and not as requirements that teachers must follow.
117 The goal of the program is to have students to achieve the desired
118 objective and not to limit teachers in the way they teach.



119 (d) Standards for student performance must be
120 established for each core objective in the local program and those
121 standards establish the district's definition of mastery for each
122 objective.

123 (e) There shall be an annual review of student
124 performance in the instructional program against locally
125 established standards. When weaknesses exist in the local
126 instructional program, the district shall take action to improve
127 student performance.

128 (3) The State Board of Education and the board of trustees
129 of each school district shall adopt policies to limit and reduce
130 the number and length of written reports that classroom teachers
131 are required to prepare.

132 (4) This section shall not be construed to limit teachers
133 from using their own professional skills to help students master
134 instructional objectives, nor shall it be construed as a call for
135 more detailed or complex lesson plans or any increase in testing
136 at the local school district level.

137 (5) Districts meeting the highest levels of accreditation
138 standards, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall be
139 exempted from the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

140 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-15-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
141 amended as follows:



142 37-15-38. (1) The following phrases have the meanings
143 ascribed in this section unless the context clearly requires
144 otherwise:

145 (a) A dual enrolled student is a student who is
146 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
147 higher learning while enrolled in high school.

148 (b) A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled
149 in a community or junior college or state institution of higher
150 learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high
151 school and college credit for postsecondary coursework.

152 (2) A local school board, the Board of Trustees of State
153 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community
154 College Board shall establish a dual enrollment system under which
155 students in the school district who meet the prescribed criteria
156 of this section may be enrolled in a postsecondary institution in
157 Mississippi while they are still in school.

158 (3) **Dual credit eligibility.** Before credits earned by a
159 qualified high school student from a community or junior college
160 or state institution of higher learning may be transferred to the
161 student's home school district, the student must be properly
162 enrolled in a dual enrollment program.

163 (4) **Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and**
164 **junior college or university programs.** The Mississippi Community
165 College Board and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
166 Higher Learning may recommend to the State Board of Education



167 admission criteria for dual enrollment programs under which high
168 school students may enroll at a community or junior college or
169 university while they are still attending high school and enrolled
170 in high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in
171 community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment
172 programs if they meet that individual institution's stated dual
173 enrollment admission requirements.

174 (5) **Tuition and cost responsibility.** Tuition and costs for
175 university-level courses and community and junior college courses
176 offered under a dual enrollment program may be paid for by the
177 postsecondary institution, the local school district, the parents
178 or legal guardians of the student, or by grants, foundations or
179 other private or public sources. Payment for tuition and any
180 other costs must be made directly to the credit-granting
181 institution.

182 (6) **Transportation responsibility.** Any transportation
183 required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment
184 program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal
185 guardian of the student. Transportation costs may be paid from
186 any available public or private sources, including the local
187 school district.

188 (7) **School district average daily attendance credit.** When
189 dually enrolled, the student may be counted, for adequate
190 education program funding purposes, in the average daily



191 attendance of the public school district in which the student
192 attends high school.

193 (8) **High school student transcript transfer requirements.**

194 Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual
195 credit program must be recorded on the high school student record
196 and on the college transcript at the university or community or
197 junior college where the student attends classes. The transcript
198 of the university or community or junior college coursework may be
199 released to another institution or applied toward college
200 graduation requirements.

201 (9) **Determining factor of prerequisites for dual enrollment**

202 **courses.** Each university and community or junior college
203 participating in a dual enrollment program shall determine course
204 prerequisites. Course prerequisites shall be the same for dual
205 enrolled students as for regularly enrolled students at that
206 university or community or junior college.

207 (10) **Process for determining articulation of curriculum**
208 **between high school, university, and community and junior college**

209 **courses.** All dual credit courses must meet the standards
210 established at the postsecondary level. Postsecondary level
211 developmental courses may not be considered as meeting the
212 requirements of the dual credit program. Dual credit memorandum
213 of understandings must be established between each postsecondary
214 institution and the school district implementing a dual credit
215 program.



216 (11) [Deleted]

217 (12) **Eligible courses for dual credit programs.** Courses
218 eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited
219 to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science
220 courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and
221 career and technical courses. Distance Learning Collaborative
222 Program courses approved under Section 37-67-1 shall be fully
223 eligible for dual credit. All courses being considered for dual
224 credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent
225 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer
226 at the participating community or junior college or university in
227 order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community
228 or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses
229 are eligible for semester hour credits.

230 (13) **High school Carnegie unit equivalency.** One (1)
231 three-hour university or community or junior college course is
232 equal to one (1) high school Carnegie unit.

233 (14) **Course alignment.** The universities, community and
234 junior colleges and the State Department of Education shall
235 periodically review their respective policies and assess the place
236 of dual credit courses within the context of their traditional
237 offerings.

238 (15) **Maximum dual credits allowed.** It is the intent of the
239 dual enrollment program to make it possible for every eligible
240 student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit



241 in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school
242 student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or
243 university credits for dual credit.

244 (16) **Dual credit program allowances.** A student may be
245 granted credit delivered through the following means:

246 (a) Examination preparation taught at a high school by
247 a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the
248 secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing
249 the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or
250 International Baccalaureate course through which a high school
251 student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on
252 the end-of-course examination.

253 (b) College or university courses taught at a high
254 school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who
255 is an employee of the school district and approved as an
256 instructor by the collaborating college or university.

257 (c) College or university courses taught at a college,
258 university or high school by an instructor employed by the college
259 or university and approved by the collaborating school district.

260 (d) Online courses of any public university, community
261 or junior college in Mississippi.

262 (17) **Qualifications of dual credit instructors.** A dual
263 credit academic instructor must meet the requirements set forth by
264 the regional accrediting association (Southern Association of
265 College and Schools). University and community and junior college



266 personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit
267 instructors.

268 A dual credit career and technical education instructor must
269 meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi Community
270 College Board in the qualifications manual for postsecondary
271 career and technical personnel.

272 (18) **Guidance on local agreements.** The Chief Academic
273 Officer of the State Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
274 Higher Learning and the Chief Instructional Officers of the
275 Mississippi Community College Board and the State Department of
276 Education, working collaboratively, shall develop a template to be
277 used by the individual community and junior colleges and
278 institutions of higher learning for consistent implementation of
279 the dual enrollment program throughout the State of Mississippi.

280 (19) **Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option.**
281 A local school board and the local community colleges board shall
282 establish a Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option
283 Program under which potential or recent student dropouts may
284 dually enroll in their home school and a local community college
285 in a dual credit program consisting of high school completion
286 coursework and a community college credential, certificate or
287 degree program. Students completing the dual enrollment-credit
288 option may obtain their high school diploma while obtaining a
289 community college credential, certificate or degree. The
290 Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall assist



291 students who have successfully completed the Mississippi Works
292 Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option in securing a job upon the
293 application of the student or the participating school or
294 community college. The Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual
295 Credit Option Program will be implemented statewide in the
296 2012-2013 school year and thereafter. The State Board of
297 Education, local school board and the local community college
298 board shall establish criteria for the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit
299 Program. Students enrolled in the program will not be eligible to
300 participate in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular
301 activities at the home school district. Tuition and costs for
302 community college courses offered under the Dual Enrollment-Dual
303 Credit Program shall not be charged to the student, parents or
304 legal guardians. When dually enrolled, the student shall be
305 counted for adequate education program funding purposes, in the
306 average daily attendance of the public school district in which
307 the student attends high school, as provided in Section
308 37-151-7(1)(a). Any transportation required by the student to
309 participate in the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Program is the
310 responsibility of the parent or legal guardian of the student, and
311 transportation costs may be paid from any available public or
312 private sources, including the local school district. Grades and
313 college credits earned by a student admitted to this Dual
314 Enrollment-Dual Credit Program shall be recorded on the high
315 school student record and on the college transcript at the



316 community college and high school where the student attends
317 classes. The transcript of the community college coursework may
318 be released to another institution or applied toward college
319 graduation requirements. Except for United States History, any
320 course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement
321 for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is eligible for
322 dual credit * * *. Courses eligible for dual credit * * * include
323 career, technical and degree program courses. All courses
324 eligible for dual credit shall be approved by the superintendent
325 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer
326 at the participating community college in order for college credit
327 to be awarded. A community college shall make the final decision
328 on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits and the
329 local school superintendent, subject to approval by the
330 Mississippi Department of Education, shall make the final decision
331 on the transfer of college courses credited to the student's high
332 school transcript.

333 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-16-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
334 amended as follows:

335 37-16-17. (1) Purpose. (a) The purpose of this section is
336 to create a quality option in Mississippi's high schools for
337 students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which shall
338 consist of challenging academic courses and modern
339 career-technical studies. The goal for students pursuing the
340 career track is to graduate from high school with a standard



341 diploma and credit toward a community college certification in a
342 career-technical field. These students also shall be encouraged
343 to take the national assessment in the career-technical field in
344 which they become certified.

345 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and
346 adopt course and curriculum requirements for career track programs
347 offered by local public school boards in accordance with this
348 section. The Mississippi Community College Board and the State
349 Board of Education jointly shall determine course and curriculum
350 requirements for the career track program.

351 (2) Alternative career track; description; curriculum. (a)
352 A career track shall provide a student with greater technical
353 skill and a strong academic core and shall be offered to each high
354 school student enrolled in a public school district. The career
355 track program shall be linked to postsecondary options and shall
356 prepare students to pursue either a degree or certification from a
357 postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or
358 certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate
359 entrance into a career field. The career track shall be designed
360 primarily for those students who are not college bound and shall
361 provide them with alternatives to entrance into a four-year
362 university or college after high school graduation.

363 (b) Students pursuing a career track shall be afforded
364 the opportunity to dually enroll in a community or technical



365 college or to participate in a business internship or work-study
366 program, when such opportunities are available and appropriate.

367 (c) Each public school district shall offer a career
368 track program approved by the State Board of Education.

369 (d) Students in a career track program shall complete
370 an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of
371 courses.

372 (e) The twenty-one (21) course unit requirements for
373 the career track shall consist of the following:

374 (i) At least four (4) English credits, including
375 English I and English II.

376 (ii) At least three (3) mathematics credits,
377 including Algebra I.

378 (iii) At least three (3) science credits,
379 including one (1) unit of biology.

380 (iv) At least three (3) social studies credits,
381 including one (1) unit of U.S. History and one (1) unit of
382 Mississippi Studies/U.S. Government.

383 (v) At least one-half (1/2) credit in health or
384 physical education.

385 (vi) At least four (4) credits in career and
386 technical education courses in the dual enrollment-dual credit
387 programs authorized under Section 37-15-38.

388 (vii) At least one (1) credit in integrated
389 technology * * *.



390 (viii) At least two and one-half (2-1/2) credits
391 in additional electives or career and technical education courses
392 required by the local school board, as approved by the State Board
393 of Education. Academic courses within the career track of the
394 standard diploma shall provide the knowledge and skill necessary
395 for proficiency on the state subject area tests in English II,
396 Algebra I and Biology.

397 (3) Nothing in this section shall disallow the development
398 of a dual enrollment program with a technical college so long as
399 an individual school district, with approval from the State
400 Department of Education, agrees to implement such a program in
401 connection with a technical college and the agreement is also
402 approved by the proprietary school's commission.

403 (4) The career track program for students not pursuing a
404 Baccalaureate Degree shall not be available to any student
405 entering the ninth grade in the 2017-2018 school year or
406 thereafter.

407 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-35-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
408 amended as follows:

409 37-35-3. (1) The board of trustees of any school district,
410 including any community/junior college, may establish and maintain
411 classes for adults, including general educational development
412 classes, under the regulations authorized in this chapter and
413 pursuant to the standards prescribed in subsection (3). The
414 property and facilities of the public school districts may be used



415 for this purpose where such use does not conflict with uses
416 already established.

417 (2) The trustees of any school district desiring to
418 establish such program may request the taxing authority of the
419 district to levy additional ad valorem taxes for the support of
420 this program. The board of supervisors, in the case of a county
421 school district, a special municipal separate school district, or
422 a community/junior college district, and the governing authority
423 of any municipality, in the case of a municipal separate school
424 district, is authorized, in its discretion, to levy a tax not
425 exceeding one (1) mill upon all the taxable property of the
426 district for the support of this program. The tax shall be in
427 addition to all other taxes authorized by law to be levied. In
428 addition to the funds realized from any such levy, the board of
429 trustees of any school district is authorized to use any surplus
430 funds that it may have or that may be made available to it from
431 local sources to supplement this program.

432 (3) (a) Any student participating in an approved High
433 School Equivalency Diploma Option program administered by a local
434 school district or a local school district with an approved
435 contractual agreement with a community/junior college or other
436 local entity shall not be considered a dropout. Students in such
437 a program administered by a local school district shall be
438 considered as enrolled within the school district of origin for
439 the purpose of enrollment for minimum program funding only. Such



440 students shall not be considered as enrolled in the regular school
441 program for academic or programmatic purposes.

442 (b) Students participating in an approved High School
443 Equivalency Diploma Option program shall have an individual career
444 plan developed at the time of placement to insure that the
445 student's academic and job skill needs will be met. The
446 Individual Career Plan will address, but is not limited to, the
447 following:

- 448 (i) Academic/instructional needs of the student;
- 449 (ii) Job readiness needs of the student; and
- 450 (iii) Work experience program options available
451 for the student.

452 (c) Students participating in an approved High School
453 Equivalency Diploma Option program may participate in existing job
454 and skills development programs or in similar programs developed
455 in conjunction with the High School Equivalency Diploma Option
456 program and the vocational director.

457 (d) High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may
458 be operated by local school districts or may be operated by two
459 (2) or more adjacent school districts, pursuant to a contract
460 approved by the State Board of Education. When two (2) or more
461 school districts contract to operate a High School Equivalency
462 Diploma Option program, the school board of a district designated
463 to be the lead district shall serve as the governing board of the
464 High School Equivalency Diploma Option program. Transportation



465 for students placed in the High School Equivalency Diploma Option
466 program shall be the responsibility of the school district of
467 origin. The expense of establishing, maintaining and operating
468 such High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may be paid
469 from funds made available to the school district through
470 contributions, minimum program funds or from local district
471 maintenance funds.

472 (e) The State Department of Education will develop
473 procedures and criteria for placement of a student in the High
474 School Equivalency Diploma Option programs. Students placed in
475 High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs shall have
476 parental approval for such placement and must meet the following
477 criteria:

478 (i) The student must be at least sixteen (16)
479 years of age;

480 (ii) The student must be at least one (1) full
481 grade level behind his or her ninth grade cohort or must have
482 acquired less than four (4) Carnegie units;

483 (iii) The student must have taken every
484 opportunity to continue to participate in coursework leading to a
485 diploma; and

486 (iv) The student must be certified to be eligible
487 to participate in the GED course by the school district
488 superintendent, based on the developed criteria.



489 (f) Students participating in an approved High School
490 Equivalency Diploma Option program, who are enrolled in subject
491 area courses through January 31 in a school with a traditional
492 class schedule or who are enrolled in subject area courses through
493 October 31 or through March 31 in a school on a block schedule,
494 notwithstanding courses in United States History, shall be
495 required to take the end-of-course subject area tests for those
496 courses in which they are enrolled.

497 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
498 and after July 1, 2021.

