

By: Representative Ladner

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 26

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-19-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
 2 TO RESTRICT AWARDS GIVEN UNDER THE SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM TO  
 3 TEACHERS AND LICENSED STAFF; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF  
 4 EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM; TO  
 5 REQUIRE THE RULES TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS REQUIRING A SCHOOL  
 6 DISTRICT TO POST NOTICE ON ITS WEBSITE OF THE AMOUNT OF AND  
 7 REASONS FOR EACH AWARD RECEIVED BY A SCHOOL WITHIN THE DISTRICT;  
 8 TO REQUIRE THE RULES TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CHAIRS OF THE SENATE  
 9 AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-19-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 12 amended as follows:

13 37-19-10. (1) The Legislature finds that there is a need  
 14 for a performance incentive program for outstanding teachers and  
 15 licensed staff in highly productive schools.

16 (2) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the School  
 17 Recognition Program is created to provide financial awards to  
 18 public schools that:

19 (a) Sustain high performance by earning a school  
 20 accountability rating of "A", which shall be funded at One Hundred  
 21 Dollars (\$100.00) per pupil in average daily attendance;



22 (b) Sustain high performance by earning a school  
23 accountability rating of "B", which shall be funded at  
24 Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00) per pupil in average daily  
25 attendance; or

26 (c) Demonstrate exemplary performance by improving at  
27 least one (1) letter grade, which shall be funded at One Hundred  
28 Dollars (\$100.00) per pupil in average daily attendance.

29 (3) All public schools, including charter schools, earning  
30 the appropriate school rating are eligible to participate in the  
31 program.

32 (4) School recognition awards must be used for nonrecurring  
33 salary supplements to the teachers and licensed staff employed in  
34 the school receiving the financial award. Any nonrecurring salary  
35 supplements paid to teachers and licensed staff shall be  
36 prospective, shall be paid over the remainder of the year, and  
37 shall not be considered part of the local supplement. For  
38 contracted individuals, there shall be an amendment to the  
39 existing contract.

40 (5) School recognition awards shall not be used for  
41 administrators.

42 (6) The State Board of Education shall adopt, and the State  
43 Department of Education shall implement, rules and regulations for  
44 the administration of the School Recognition Program. In addition  
45 to other necessary matters associated with the administration of  
46 the program, the rules must include provisions requiring each



47 school district to post on its website and on the individual  
48 website, if any, of each school within the district which has  
49 received an award, the total dollar value of the award and the  
50 reason or reasons for which that school received the award funds.  
51 The reasons may include the school's accountability rating or any  
52 other qualifying criterion that resulted in an award. For  
53 information purposes, the department shall furnish copies of these  
54 rules to the chairs of the Education Committees of the Senate and  
55 House of Representatives.

56       (7) There is \* \* \* created in the State Treasury \* \* \* the  
57 School Recognition Program Fund, which shall be used by the State  
58 Department of Education, depending on the availability of funds as  
59 appropriated, to provide financial awards to schools under this  
60 section. It shall be the duty of the State Department of  
61 Education to file with the State Treasurer and the State Fiscal  
62 Officer such data and information as may be required to enable  
63 the \* \* \* State Treasurer and State Fiscal Officer to distribute  
64 the School Recognition Program Funds by electronic funds transfer  
65 to the several school districts at the time required and provided  
66 under the provisions of this section. Such data and  
67 information \* \* \* shall show in detail the amount of funds to  
68 which each school district is entitled from the School Recognition  
69 Program Fund. Such data and information \* \* \* may be revised from  
70 time to time as necessitated by law. At the time provided by law,  
71 the State Treasurer and the State Fiscal Officer shall distribute



72 to the several school districts the amounts to which they are  
73 entitled from the School Recognition Program Fund as provided by  
74 this section. Such distribution shall be made by electronic funds  
75 transfer to the depositories of the several school districts  
76 designated in writing to the State Treasurer based upon the data  
77 and information supplied by the State Department of Education for  
78 such distribution. In such instances, the State Treasurer shall  
79 submit a request for an electronic funds transfer to the State  
80 Fiscal Officer, which shall set forth the purpose, amount and  
81 payees, and shall be in such form as may be approved by the State  
82 Fiscal Officer so as to provide the necessary information as would  
83 be required for a requisition and issuance of a warrant. A copy  
84 of the record of \* \* \* the electronic funds transfers shall be  
85 transmitted by the school district depositories to the Treasurer,  
86 who shall file duplicates with the State Fiscal Officer. The  
87 Treasurer and State Fiscal Officer shall jointly promulgate  
88 regulations for the utilization of electronic funds transfers to  
89 school districts from the School Recognition Program Fund.

90 ( \* \* \* 8) It is the intent of the Legislature to develop a  
91 plan to reward high-performing teachers in schools with an  
92 accountability rating of "C," "D" and "F" by July 1, 2016.

93 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
94 and after July 1, 2022.

