

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 281

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACCREDITED AT ONE OF THE
 2 THREE LOWEST ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS, AS DEFINED BY THE STATE BOARD
 3 OF EDUCATION, TO ADOPT CERTAIN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING
 4 DAILY CURRICULUM, WEEKLY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, PARENTAL
 5 INVOLVEMENT, DRESS CODES, SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, PARENT-TEACHER
 6 CONFERENCES AND A SCHOOL SYLLABUS; TO REQUIRE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS
 7 IN THOSE DISTRICTS TO ADHERE TO THE SAME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES;
 8 TO REQUIRE ALL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT A VIDEO
 9 STREAMING PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
 10 OF LABOR TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER-TRACK
 11 CURRICULUM BASED UPON OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS IN THE STATE AND
 12 COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
 13 ASSIST STUDENTS IN ACCESSING INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
 14 LABOR WHICH WILL ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO MAKE CAREER CHOICES; TO
 15 REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ALTERNATIVE CAREER-TRACK CURRICULUM TO
 16 SATISFY ITS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND LEAD TO THE AWARDING OF A
 17 STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of each school district
 20 having an accountability rating at one (1) of the three (3) lowest
 21 levels, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall adopt
 22 policies and procedures regarding the daily curriculum in schools,
 23 weekly homework assignments, parental involvement, dress codes,
 24 school holidays, parent-teacher conferences and a school syllabus.



25 The policies and procedures must include, but not necessarily be
26 limited to, the following:

27 (a) Every child must be assigned daily homework
28 assignments;

29 (b) Every child must be taught to write in proper
30 manuscript and cursive lettering, which must be reinforced through
31 weekend homework assignments at every grade level;

32 (c) Every child must be assigned a daily reading
33 assignment;

34 (d) Every child must be assigned a daily written
35 assignment to accompany the daily reading assignment in order to
36 assess the reading comprehension level of the child;

37 (e) Every child must be assigned a minimum of five (5)
38 words per week in each subject area to learn to spell, define and
39 use in a sentence, which must be used to assess the child's
40 retention of the assignment;

41 (f) Every child must be assigned a minimum of one (1)
42 book to read per subject each month and must write a short report
43 on the subject matter of the book, which report must be used to
44 assess the child's learning ability. Children in primary grades
45 may be allowed to draw pictures, elaborate orally or use any other
46 alternative method to tell about their books;

47 (g) Every parent or guardian of a child shall
48 participate in one (1) supportive service for the school district,
49 such as assisting at the bus stop, working the concession stand



50 for an athletic event, chaperoning a school sponsored event,
51 serving in the Parent Teacher Association, or serving as a mentor,
52 resource officer or tutor;

53 (h) Every teacher shall dress in a professional manner,
54 which does not include wearing blue jeans, denim jeans or tee
55 shirts;

56 (i) Every child must be required to wear a school
57 uniform;

58 (j) The school districts shall provide for only the
59 following school holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas,
60 New Year's, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Spring Break and Good
61 Friday holidays. Permanent early release days are prohibited;

62 (k) Staff development training may not be held during a
63 regular school day; however, staff development training may be
64 offered after the regular school day has been completed. The
65 staff development training must be relevant to the teaching
66 experience and beneficial to the teacher, student and district as
67 a whole;

68 (l) Parent-teacher conferences must be held at the
69 middle of each nine-week term with the parent and a child who has
70 not mastered his or her coursework for the mid-term or who has
71 demonstrated bad citizenship;

72 (m) The school district shall provide a syllabus for
73 each nine (9) weeks with the homework assignments posted for each
74 subject. The syllabus must contain an agreement that the parent



75 or guardian is required to sign stating that the parent
76 understands the child has daily homework assignments and that the
77 parent has received a document outlining the child's work
78 assignments and due dates of the assignments; and

79 (n) The school district shall post the syllabus on the
80 school district website, if available. If a student loses his or
81 her syllabus, the school district may charge a fee of not more
82 than Twenty-five Cents (25¢) per individual sheet to copy and
83 replace the document.

84 (2) Alternative school programs in school districts having
85 an accreditation rating at one (1) of the three (3) lowest levels,
86 as defined by the State Board of Education, shall adhere to the
87 policies required under subsection (1) of this section. Students
88 attending an alternative school must attend school for no less
89 than eight (8) hours per day and must attend school on Saturday
90 for no less than eight (8) hours per day. At alternative schools,
91 Saturday must be known as "Attitude Adjustment Day." Each
92 Saturday, the school districts shall arrange for retired military,
93 first responders, volunteer mentors, ministers, parents and any
94 other community volunteers to attend school with the alternative
95 school students and to share their skills and knowledge with the
96 students, encouraging them to become better students and citizens.
97 In addition, the school district may authorize students to
98 participate in community service programs on Saturdays to help



99 build character and concern for their own school, family,
100 neighborhood and community.

101 SECTION 2. (1) Each school district shall design and
102 implement a video streaming program in conjunction with the United
103 States Department of Labor to aid in the development of the school
104 district's curriculum. Using state and national occupational
105 projections available through the Department of Labor, the school
106 district shall develop an alternative career-track curriculum that
107 prepares students for direct entry into the workforce or
108 post-secondary education and training in the five (5) occupations
109 projected to be the fastest growing in the State of Mississippi,
110 and in the twenty (20) occupations projected to be the fastest
111 growing in the country, over the next succeeding five (5) years.
112 The district shall provide students with access to the Department
113 of Labor, via video streaming means, and shall assist students in
114 gathering relevant information from the Department of Labor which
115 will enable the students to make informed, educated career choices
116 and to select the curriculum that will begin the students on a
117 path toward a meaningful and rewarding occupation.

118 (2) An alternative career-track curriculum developed and
119 implemented in a school district under subsection (1) of this
120 section must be designed to enable students to meet all necessary
121 requirements for graduation and to be awarded a standard high
122 school diploma upon graduation from a high school within that
123 district.



124 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
125 and after July 1, 2022.

