

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2685

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL GRANT
 2 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT OF THE PROGRAM; TO
 3 PROVIDE GRANT AWARDS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INCENTIVIZE THE
 4 ADOPTION OF A MODIFIED SCHOOL CALENDAR AND TO OFFSET COSTS
 5 ASSOCIATED WITH ADOPTING A MODIFIED SCHOOL CALENDAR; TO REQUIRE
 6 THE SCHOOLS TO USE THE FUNDS PROVIDED IN A WAY THAT BEST
 7 FACILITATES THEIR PLAN TO TRANSITION TO A MODIFIED SCHOOL CALENDAR
 8 AND MAXIMIZE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT; TO SET RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
 9 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM; TO SET
 10 THE ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT FUNDS TO BE BASED ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS'
 11 AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE
 12 TREASURY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MISSISSIPPI YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL GRANT
 13 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE
 14 REPORT ON THE USE OF FUNDS DISTRIBUTED AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
 15 MODIFIED CALENDAR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO THE GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT
 16 GOVERNOR, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND CHAIRS OF
 17 THE SENATE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES BY
 18 OCTOBER 1, 2022; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

20 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
 21 "Mississippi Year-Round School Grant Program."

22 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Mississippi Legislature finds the
 23 following:

24 (a) A modified calendar reducing the number of days
 25 during summer break and apportioning required instructional days



26 throughout the school year can increase student achievement and
27 provide staff with a more flexible schedule.

28 (2) Therefore, the intent of the Mississippi Legislature is
29 to incentivize public school districts to consider adopting a
30 modified school calendar and to offset costs associated with
31 adopting a modified school calendar.

32 **SECTION 3.** For purposes of this act, the following words
33 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context
34 otherwise requires:

35 (a) "Grant program" means the Mississippi Year-Round
36 School Grant Program established in this act.

37 (b) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
38 Education.

39 (c) "School" means all public school districts.

40 **SECTION 4.** (1) There is established the Mississippi
41 Year-Round School Grant Program which shall be administered by the
42 department for the purpose of offsetting costs incurred by schools
43 in adopting a modified school calendar and to incentivize schools
44 that are considering adopting a modified school calendar.

45 (2) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, allocations
46 to schools shall be made based on average daily membership, as
47 defined in Section 37-151-5. For any school not funded under the
48 Mississippi Adequate Education Program, the department shall
49 calculate the average-daily-membership equivalent or fund the
50 school based on enrollment.



51 (3) Subject to the provisions of this act and other
52 applicable state law and regulations, schools have the authority
53 to use the funds provided in this grant program in a way that best
54 facilitates their plan to transition to a modified school calendar
55 and maximizes student achievement.

56 **SECTION 5.** (1) The department shall:

57 (a) Inform all public school districts about the grant
58 program;

59 (b) Develop regulations and procedures to govern the
60 administration of the grant program, including application
61 requirements and a proposed budget; and

62 (c) Subject to appropriation, award districts meeting
63 the requirements of the program a grant for expenses related to
64 the adoption of a modified school calendar.

65 (2) An application for an award from the grant program shall
66 include evidence of community support, a proposed budget and any
67 other criteria required by the department.

68 (3) Participating school districts shall agree to maintain a
69 modified school calendar for at least three (3) school years.

70 (4) Grants awarded shall be used for expenses incurred as a
71 result of the adoption of a modified school calendar as approved
72 by the department, including, but not limited to:

73 (a) Transportation;

74 (b) Certified and noncertified staffing;



75 (c) Remediation and enrichment programs during
76 intercession; and

77 (d) Utilities.

78 **SECTION 6.** (1) Grants shall be awarded according to a
79 school district's average daily membership as defined in Section
80 37-151-5, and shall be set as follows:

81 (a) Public school districts with up to five thousand
82 (5,000) enrolled students shall receive Three Hundred Thousand
83 Dollars (\$300,000.00);

84 (b) Public school districts with between five thousand
85 one (5,001) and ten thousand (10,000) enrolled students shall
86 receive Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00);

87 (c) Public school districts with between ten thousand
88 one (10,001) and fifteen thousand (15,000) enrolled students shall
89 receive Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00);

90 (d) Public school districts with between fifteen
91 thousand one (15,001) and twenty thousand (20,000) enrolled
92 students shall receive Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars
93 (\$450,000.00); and

94 (e) Public school districts with more than twenty
95 thousand one (20,001) enrolled students shall receive Five Hundred
96 Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00).

97 (2) Grants received by public school districts under this
98 chapter shall not be used to purchase land, construct new
99 facilities, or to finance or satisfy any existing debt.



100 **SECTION 7.** There is created a special fund in the State
101 Treasury, to be known as the "Mississippi Year-Round School Grant
102 Fund," from which the grants authorized by this act shall be
103 disbursed by the department. The fund shall be maintained by the
104 State Treasurer as a separate and special fund, separate and apart
105 from the General Fund of the state. Unexpended amounts remaining
106 in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the
107 State General Fund, and any interest earned or investment earnings
108 or interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to
109 the credit of the fund.

110 **SECTION 8.** The department shall provide a comprehensive
111 report on the use of funds distributed under this grant program
112 and the effectiveness of modified calendar public school districts
113 to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of
114 Representatives, and Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations
115 and Education Committees by October 1, 2022, and October 1 of each
116 year thereafter.

117 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
118 and after July 1, 2022.

