

By: Representative Zuber

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 51

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL SECURITY DISBURSEMENT PROGRAM
 2 TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS,
 3 PUBLIC SPECIAL PURPOSE SCHOOLS, AND ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT
 4 ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS TO PREVENT
 5 INCIDENTS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE, TO PROVIDE THAT ELIGIBLE ENTITIES
 6 MAY APPLY FOR A DISBURSEMENT BY SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION TO THE
 7 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH
 8 DISBURSEMENT RECEIVED BY AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY MAY BE USED; TO
 9 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM
 10 ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, TO
 11 DISBURSE MONEY TO APPLICANTS THAT SATISFY THE APPLICATION
 12 REQUIREMENTS FROM MONEY CREDITED TO THE SCHOOL SECURITY
 13 DISBURSEMENT CASH FUND; TO REQUIRE RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS TO REPORT
 14 TO THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING ITS USE OF THE MONEY; TO REQUIRE THE
 15 DEPARTMENT TO ANNUALLY PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS TO THE
 16 SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES; TO ESTABLISH THE "SCHOOL
 17 SECURITY DISBURSEMENT PROGRAM CASH FUND" IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO
 18 PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF THE PROGRAM ON JULY 1, 2033; AND FOR
 19 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

21 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
 22 "School Security Disbursement Program."

23 **SECTION 2.** (1) As used in this act, the following terms
 24 shall have the meaning ascribed in this section, unless the
 25 context of use clearly requires otherwise:

26 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.



27 (b) "Department" means the State Department of
28 Education.

29 (c) "Disbursement program" means the school security
30 disbursement program created in Section 3 of this act.

31 (d) "Eligible entity" means a local education provider
32 or an eligible nonprofit organization.

33 (e) "Eligible nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit
34 organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3)
35 of the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," as amended, that
36 applies to work with specific local education providers or first
37 responders, and that:

38 (i) Has experience providing training for school
39 safety incident response;

40 (ii) Has experience working with law enforcement
41 agencies and other first responders;

42 (iii) Has experience working with school
43 districts, school personnel and students on issues related to
44 school safety incident response; and

45 (iv) Identifies in its application local education
46 providers or first responders that will participate in school
47 safety incident response training or programs.

48 (f) "Local education provider" means a school district,
49 a charter school or public special purpose school, including:

50 (i) The Mississippi School for the Arts;

51 (ii) The Mississippi School for the Blind;



52 (iii) The Mississippi School for the Deaf; and
53 (iv) The Mississippi School for Mathematics and
54 Science.

55 **SECTION 3.** (1) (a) There is created within the State
56 Department of Education, the School Security Disbursement Program
57 to provide disbursements to local education providers to use for
58 the purposes described in subsection (2) of this section to
59 improve security within public schools.

60 (b) Subject to available appropriations, the department
61 shall disburse money to applicants as provided in subsection (4)
62 of this section from money credited to the School Security
63 Disbursement Cash Fund, created in Section 4 of this act. It is
64 the intent of the Legislature that the department distribute the
65 money credited to the School Security Disbursement Cash Fund as
66 quickly as practicable based on the receipt of qualifying
67 applications.

68 (2) An eligible entity that receives a disbursement from the
69 disbursement program may use the disbursed money only for the
70 following purposes:

71 (a) Capital construction that improves the security of
72 a public school facility or public school vehicle, including, but
73 not limited to, any structure or installed hardware, device or
74 equipment that protects a public school facility or public school
75 vehicle and the students, educators and other individuals who
76 attend, work in or visit a public school facility or are



77 transported in a public school vehicle from threats of physical
78 harm including, but not limited, to any structure or installed
79 hardware, device or equipment that:

80 (i) Prevents the entry of unauthorized individuals
81 into a public school facility or a protected space within a public
82 school facility or onto a public school vehicle; or

83 (ii) Can be used to expedite communication when a
84 threat is present;

85 (b) Training in student threat assessment for all
86 school building staff who have contact with students, which must
87 include best practices for conducting threat assessments, such as
88 instruction on how to prevent bias when conducting a threat
89 assessment;

90 (c) In collaboration with local law enforcement
91 agencies, providing the training for peace officers on
92 interactions with students at school;

93 (d) School emergency response training for all school
94 building staff;

95 (e) Programs to help students become more resilient in
96 meeting the daily challenges they face without resorting to
97 violence against themselves or others, including addressing the
98 fundamental causes of violence and aggression and helping students
99 become responsible members of their schools, neighborhoods,
100 communities and families;



101 (f) Developing and providing training programs,
102 curriculums and seminars related to school safety incident
103 response; and

104 (g) Developing best practices and protocols related to
105 school safety incident response.

106 (3) An eligible entity, including any combination of
107 eligible entities that wish to apply together as a single,
108 regional applicant, may apply for a disbursement from the
109 disbursement program by submitting an application to the
110 department that includes the following information:

111 (a) The purpose or purposes described in subsection (2)
112 of this section for which the applicant is requesting the
113 disbursement;

114 (b) The amount of disbursed money requested based on an
115 itemized estimate of the expected cost of the purpose or purposes
116 for which the applicant is requesting the disbursement and taking
117 into account the requirement of matching money, if
118 applicable, pursuant to subsection (4) of this section;

119 (c) Evidence of the availability of and commitment of
120 the applicant to use financial resources to match the amount of
121 the disbursement;

122 (d) The applicant's commitment to provide information
123 to the department as required for the annual report described in
124 subsection (5) of this section;

125 (e) If the local education provider is a charter school



126 that is located within a school district facility, and
127 participating in the school district's safety and security
128 services, information demonstrating that the charter school has
129 collaborated with the school district in preparing and submitting
130 the application; and

131 (f) Any additional information, as specified by rule of
132 the State Board of Education, that is necessary for the department
133 to evaluate the likely effectiveness of the applicant's use of the
134 disbursed money in improving security in public school facilities
135 or vehicles.

136 (4) The department shall review each application received
137 pursuant to subsection (3) of this section and, subject to
138 available appropriations, shall disburse money to the applicant if
139 the department determines that the application meets the
140 requirements specified in subsection (3) of this section and the
141 purpose or purposes for which the applicant intends to use the
142 disbursed money are likely to improve security in public school
143 facilities or vehicles. The department shall give priority to
144 applicants that commit to providing financial resources to
145 match the amount of the disbursement. The department shall
146 determine the disbursement amount taking into account the
147 amount identified in the application.

148 (5) (a) On or before August 1, 2024, and on or before
149 August 1 each year thereafter, each eligible entity that received



150 a disbursement in the preceding school year shall submit a report
151 to the department specifying:

152 (i) The amount received;

153 (ii) The source and amount of matching money
154 provided, if applicable; and

155 (iii) The purpose or purposes for which the
156 eligible entity used the disbursed money, including an itemized
157 accounting of how the money was expended.

158 (b) Beginning with the Superintendent Annual Report in
159 2025, which shall be provided the Education Committees of the
160 Senate and the House of Representatives, the department shall
161 include in the annual report a summary of the reports received
162 pursuant to subsection (5)(a) of this section. Beginning in
163 January 2025, and every January thereafter, the department shall
164 submit a summary of the reports received pursuant to subsection
165 (5)(a) of this section to the Education Committees of the Senate
166 and the House of Representatives, or any successor committees.

167 (6) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules
168 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedures Act," Article 3 of
169 Chapter 43, Title 25, Mississippi Code of 1972, to establish the
170 time frames for submitting disbursement applications and awarding
171 disbursements and to specify any additional information that must
172 be included in disbursement applications as described in
173 subsection (3)(f) of this section.

174 (7) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2033.



175 **SECTION 4.** (1) There is created in the State Treasury, the
176 "School Security Disbursement Program Cash Fund," hereinafter
177 referred to as the "fund." The fund consists of money that the
178 Legislature may appropriate or transfer to the fund. The State
179 Treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the
180 deposit and investment of money in the fund to the fund. Subject
181 to annual appropriation by the Legislature, the department may
182 expend money from the fund to implement the School Security
183 Disbursement Program created in Section 3 of this act. The
184 department may expend up to three percent (3%) of the amount
185 appropriated to the fund in each fiscal year for the
186 administrative expenses incurred in implementing the School
187 Security Disbursement Program.

188 (2) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2025. The
189 State Treasurer shall transfer all unexpended and unencumbered
190 money in the fund on June 30, 2025, to the State General Fund.

191 **SECTION 5.** The Legislature hereby finds, determines and
192 declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation
193 of the public peace, health or safety.

194 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
195 and after July 1, 2023.

