

By: Representatives Felsher, Summers, Hulum To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 208

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-205, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
 2 TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY RELATED TO THE OFFERING OF  
 3 INSTRUCTION UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE "MISSISSIPPI COMPUTER SCIENCE  
 4 AND CYBER EDUCATION EQUALITY ACT"; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH  
 5 INSTRUCTION MUST BE TAUGHT BY APPROPRIATELY ENDORSED TEACHERS FOR  
 6 COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES WHICH AWARD CARNEGIE UNITS, AND BY  
 7 LICENSED TEACHERS OR PARAPROFESSIONALS WITH PROPER TRAINING IN  
 8 COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION WHO ARE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OR  
 9 SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED TEACHER; TO INCLUDE IN THE DEFINITION  
 10 SECTION OF THE ACT THE MEANING OF THE TERM PARAPROFESSIONAL; TO  
 11 AMEND SECTION 37-13-211, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY  
 12 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-205, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 15 amended as follows:

16 37-13-205. As used in Sections 37-13-201 through 37-13-213,  
 17 the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed in this  
 18 section:

19 (a) "Computer science" means the study of computers,  
 20 algorithmic processes, coding, and logical thinking, including  
 21 computer principles, their hardware and software designs, their  
 22 implementation and their impact on society.



23 (b) "Computer science courses" means high school and  
24 middle school courses that teach computer science as stand-alone  
25 implementations; and elementary curriculum that provides  
26 instruction in computer science as stand-alone implementations or  
27 embedded in other subjects and focuses on how to create and  
28 understand technology, rather than simply using technology.

29 (c) "Offer" means providing instruction \* \* \* with  
30 appropriately endorsed teachers, for any computer science course  
31 which awards a Carnegie unit. At the elementary level,  
32 instruction may be offered by a licensed teacher or  
33 paraprofessional who is under the guidance or supervision of a  
34 licensed teacher, and who has received training for computer  
35 science instruction approved by the State Department of Education:

36 (i) Who is onsite at the physical location of the  
37 school; or

38 (ii) Who is not onsite at the physical location of  
39 the school but conducts the course through virtual means with a  
40 proctor onsite at the physical location of the school.

41 (d) "Paraprofessional" consists of school employees who  
42 support instructional delivery and are deemed to be qualified and  
43 have received the professional learning opportunities to perform  
44 the job functions associated with providing instruction.

45 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
46 amended as follows:



47           37-13-211. (1) Subject to appropriations made by the  
48 Legislature, the State Department of Education shall provide  
49 annual training for teachers, counselors \* \* \*, administrators and  
50 paraprofessionals in order to phase in the K-12 computer science  
51 curriculum. Preference should be given to districts who have the  
52 fewest number of teachers and paraprofessionals trained in  
53 computer science. The State Department of Education shall work  
54 with the Center for Cyber Education at Mississippi State  
55 University to develop and coordinate \* \* \* the training. The  
56 State Department of Education may contract with private and  
57 nonprofit providers for \* \* \* educator training and for student  
58 instruction, and is encouraged to utilize available cost-free  
59 computer training, instruction and resources. Teachers and  
60 paraprofessionals may receive computer science instruction  
61 training through an online platform.

62           (2) The State Department of Education shall provide a report  
63 by January 1, 2022, to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the  
64 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the  
65 Senate Education Committee and the Chairman of the House Education  
66 Committee. The report shall include a strategic plan for  
67 statewide computer science education initiatives including, but  
68 not limited to, the following:

69                       (i) A summary of the current state landscape for  
70 K-12 computer science education;



71 (ii) A plan for expanding computer science  
72 education opportunities to every school in the state by the  
73 2024-2025 school year;

74 (iii) A plan for the development of preservice and  
75 in-service teachers seeking a computer science endorsement or  
76 course specific license, in order to meet the timeline for course  
77 requirements;

78 (iv) The development of a vetted list of approved  
79 vendors in computer science education that are recognized as high  
80 quality computer science courses or instruction, which should  
81 weigh preference on cost and ease of implementation; and

82 (v) The identification of approved computer  
83 science courses that may fulfill at least four (4) units of  
84 academic credit for high school graduation. The State Department  
85 of Education shall work with the Board of Trustees of State  
86 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community  
87 College Board to approve these courses once identified.

88 ( \* \* \*3) The State Department of Education shall submit a  
89 report by December 31 of each year through 2025 to the Governor,  
90 the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
91 Representatives, the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee  
92 and the Chairman of the House Education Committee. The report  
93 shall include a list of schools in each district teaching computer  
94 science and the number of computer science teachers trained in  
95 each district.



96           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
97 and after July 1, 2023.

