

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.

