

By: Senator(s) Parks, Jackson

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2487  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT  
2 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT OF 2023" TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE  
3 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO DEFINE  
4 TERMINOLOGY; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO SET THE DATES AND DEADLINES  
5 FOR APPLYING FOR FUNDING FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT COURSES  
6 OF ELIGIBLE MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
7 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM BY POSTSECONDARY  
8 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THE RATE AT  
9 WHICH PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR  
10 PARTICIPATING STUDENTS; TO EXCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF EARLY  
11 COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH A  
12 SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE DESIGNATED THE  
13 "MISSISSIPPI DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUND"  
14 AND TO PROVIDE THAT ANY UNEXPENDED BALANCES APPROPRIATED BY THE  
15 LEGISLATURE REMAINING AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR  
16 SHALL NOT LAPSE INTO THE STATE GENERAL FUND; AND FOR RELATED  
17 PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
20 37-106-85, Mississippi Code of 1972:

21 37-106-85. Sections 37-106-85 through 37-106-93, Mississippi  
22 Code of 1972, shall be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi  
23 Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act of 2023."

24 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section  
25 37-106-87, Mississippi Code of 1972:



26           37-106-87. There is hereby created the Mississippi Dual  
27 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by  
28 the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board  
29 established under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates  
30 and deadlines for applying for funding for dual enrollment/dual  
31 credit courses of eligible Mississippi high school students under  
32 the provisions of Sections 37-106-85 through 37-106-93 and award  
33 scholarships to participating institutions for those who meet the  
34 eligibility requirements provided herein.

35           **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section  
36 37-106-89, Mississippi Code of 1972:

37           37-106-89. As used in this act, the following terms shall  
38 have the meaning ascribed in this section, unless the context  
39 clearly requires otherwise:

40           (a) "Institution" means any postsecondary educational  
41 institution that is a public state-supported institution of higher  
42 learning, a public state-supported community or junior college, or  
43 any not-for-profit private institution of higher learning in the  
44 state. The term does not include proprietary colleges or  
45 universities.

46           (b) "Student" means a high school student in a public  
47 school or charter school program in Mississippi.

48           (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Postsecondary  
49 Education Financial Assistance Board established in Section



50 37-106-9, which is authorized and empowered to administer the  
51 provisions of Title 37, Chapter 106, Mississippi Code of 1972.

52 (d) "Director" means the individual designated by the  
53 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to  
54 administer the provisions of the various financial assistance  
55 programs by promulgating the necessary rules and regulations for  
56 their effective administration.

57 (e) "Dual enrolled student" means a student who is  
58 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of  
59 higher learning while enrolled in high school, as defined in  
60 Section 37-15-37(1)(a).

61 (f) "Dual credit student" means a student who is  
62 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of  
63 higher learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving  
64 high school and college credit for postsecondary coursework, as  
65 defined in Section 37-15-38(1)(b).

66 (g) "Manual" means the procedures manual for the State  
67 of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs of which  
68 the contents of the manual are evaluated and approved by the  
69 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community  
70 Colleges and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

71 (h) "Program" means the Mississippi Dual  
72 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

73 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section  
74 37-106-91, Mississippi Code of 1972:



75           37-106-91. (1) (a) For institutions to be eligible for  
76 participation in the program, the institution shall adhere to the  
77 guidelines prescribed in the procedures manual for the State of  
78 Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs, hereinafter  
79 the "manual," and the requirements established by the Mississippi  
80 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board for  
81 participating institutions set forth in this subsection.

82           (b) Eligibility for funding shall be incorporated into  
83 the manual, which shall outline the specific criteria for initial  
84 and continued eligibility for participation for institutions, dual  
85 enrollment students and dual credit students, respectively. The  
86 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community  
87 Colleges and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
88 Learning shall evaluate and approve the contents of the manual  
89 each year.

90           (c) The board shall administer the Dual Enrollment/Dual  
91 Credit Scholarship Program as outlined in the manual. Funds for  
92 the program shall be distributed by the board to the providing  
93 institution of higher education on behalf of each eligible student  
94 after the enrollment verification period. Funds shall not be  
95 distributed by the board directly to the student.

96           (d) Participation in the Mississippi Dual  
97 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program is optional for all  
98 institutions defined in Section 37-106-89(a). However, in order



99 to qualify for funding, all guidelines in the manual must be  
100 followed by each institution.

101 (e) All participating institutions shall be reimbursed  
102 at the rate of forty percent (40%) of the average community  
103 college credit hour tuition for the current academic year.

104 (f) Participating institutions may elect to exclude  
105 specific centers, branch campuses, collegiate academies and middle  
106 college's within their governance or purview from participating in  
107 the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

108 (2) For students to be eligible for participation in the  
109 program, the scholarship applicant shall satisfy the student  
110 eligibility requirements prescribed in Procedures Manual for the  
111 State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs and  
112 the requirements established for student eligibility set forth in  
113 this subsection:

114 (a) Students in Grades 11 and 12 who are residents of  
115 the State of Mississippi shall be eligible to participate in the  
116 program, provided they meet minimum eligibility criteria in the  
117 manual. Resident status for the purpose of receiving assistance  
118 under this chapter shall be determined in the same manner as  
119 resident status for tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through  
120 37-103-29, with the exception of Section 37-103-17;

121 (b) Each eligible student shall be qualified for  
122 funding under this act for up to six (6) dual enrollment/dual  
123 credit semester credit hours prior to high school graduation;



124 (c) All students who meet the eligibility requirements  
125 as outlined in the manual, regardless of participation method,  
126 whether online, at a participating institution's campus, at a high  
127 school campus, academic or career and technical education (CTE),  
128 shall meet the requirements for funding allocation to the  
129 participating institution;

130 (d) All Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program  
131 student recipients shall be required to participate in an advising  
132 component related to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer  
133 Tool (MATT) to ensure their understanding of course  
134 transferability. Credits earned with a final grade of C or above  
135 on the eligible student's college transcript in courses offered  
136 through the program, whether academic or career and technical,  
137 shall transfer to any postsecondary institution in Mississippi;

138 (e) Books, course materials, tools, supplies, lab fees,  
139 transportation costs and other applicable course fees shall be the  
140 responsibility of the student or high school district; and

141 (f) Middle college students shall be qualified for the  
142 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program  
143 funding only if the institution complies with the requirements of  
144 the manual.

145 (3) To ensure appropriate articulation of college credits to  
146 other institutions, only the courses on the "Approved Academic  
147 Dual Credit Listing" shall be eligible for funding.



148 (4) Early college students are not eligible for the  
149 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program  
150 funding.

151 **SECTION 5.** The following shall be codified as Section  
152 37-106-93, Mississippi Code of 1972:

153 37-106-93. In addition to the criteria established in  
154 Section 37-106-91, the following program participation criteria  
155 must be adhered to:

156 (a) Future enrollment at the providing institution  
157 cannot be a requirement for a student to be eligible for Dual  
158 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program funds;

159 (b) Community college career and technical education  
160 (CTE) courses approved in the manual shall be eligible for  
161 funding;

162 (c) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary to  
163 implement and administer this section;

164 (d) The board shall develop rules for ensuring that  
165 expenses of the scholarship program in each fiscal year do not  
166 exceed funding for the program in that fiscal year. For that  
167 purpose, and any other provision of this section to the contrary  
168 notwithstanding, the board may limit the acceptance of scholarship  
169 applications and may limit the award amount of scholarships;

170 (e) If the state appropriation is insufficient to fully  
171 fund all students eligible for participation in the program in a  
172 given year, those funds shall be prorated to the student's account



173 at the eligible participating institution by an amount to be  
174 determined by the board. The student or school district will then  
175 be responsible for the remaining balance due for the course taken  
176 at the providing institution;

177 (f) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any  
178 institution participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual  
179 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke an  
180 institution's eligibility to receive future funds under the  
181 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the  
182 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in  
183 Section 37-106-91(1);

184 (g) The board may conduct its own annual audits of  
185 students participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual  
186 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke a  
187 high school's eligibility to participate in the program if it  
188 finds the student or high school has not complied with the  
189 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in  
190 Section 37-106-91(2);

191 (h) The average community college credit hour tuition  
192 amount for the current academic year, as referenced in Section  
193 37-106-91(1)(e), shall be provided annually by the Mississippi  
194 Community College Board to the executive director of the board;

195 (i) If a public institution chooses not to participate  
196 in the program, or if a public institution in the eligible  
197 student's region does not have a particular program the eligible





198 student wants to enroll in but the program is available at another  
199 public institution, a student shall have the option of enrolling  
200 at a program at another participating public institution;

201 (j) Public school districts or charter schools and  
202 institutions participating in the program shall be permitted to  
203 enter into agreements under Section 37-15-38, which allow students  
204 to enroll and complete additional dual credit or dual enrollment  
205 courses, with the goal of increasing the number of students  
206 graduating from high school with an associate level degree or  
207 other nationally recognized credential. This act is intended to  
208 provide funding and structure for a minimum standardized dual  
209 enrollment/dual credit program across the state;

210 (k) To encourage more participation in the program, a  
211 final grade of C or above in a three (3) credit hour dual credit  
212 course, academic or career and technical, shall be weighted the  
213 same as a three (3) or above in an Advanced Placement course final  
214 examination in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.  
215 Only courses included in the approved dual credit course list  
216 referenced in the manual shall be weighted in the model; and

217 (l) There is established in the State Treasury a  
218 special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Dual  
219 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program" into which shall be  
220 deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any  
221 other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of  
222 implementing the program established under this act. Money in the



223 fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the  
224 General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into  
225 the fund shall be credited to the special fund;

226 (m) The program requires specific appropriation by the  
227 Legislature.

228 **SECTION 6.** Sections 37-106-85, 37-106-87, 37-106-89,  
229 37-106-91 and 37-106-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall stand  
230 repealed on July, 1, 2025.

231 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
232 and after July 1, 2023.

