

By: Representative Hines

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 190

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COMPREHENSIVE COURSE IN MISSISSIPPI
 2 HISTORY AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO BE TAUGHT TO ALL STUDENTS
 3 IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL
 4 SCHOOLS AND HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE DISCONTINUATION OF
 5 THE END-OF-COURSE SUBJECT AREA TEST IN UNITED STATES HISTORY; TO
 6 AMEND SECTIONS 37-16-7, 37-3-49, 37-15-38, 37-16-17 AND 37-35-3,
 7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING
 8 PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) In addition to the curriculum otherwise
 11 required by law or the State Board of Education to be taught in
 12 Grades 9 through 12 in the public schools of this state,
 13 comprehensive courses in Mississippi History and United States
 14 Government are required to be taught to all students. The
 15 Mississippi History course must provide students with an
 16 examination of the history of the State of Mississippi from the
 17 age of discovery and colonization to the present with particular
 18 emphasis on the significant political, social, economic and
 19 cultural issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which
 20 have impacted the diverse ethnic and racial populations of the
 21 state.



22 (2) All private, parochial and home-based school programs
23 must include the same courses required under subsection (1) for
24 students enrolled in Grades 9 through 12.

25 (3) The courses required under this section must be taught
26 on a semester basis and equal one-half (1/2) Carnegie unit.

27 **SECTION 2.** Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the State
28 Board of Education shall cease to require the administration of
29 the end-of-course subject area test in United States History and
30 may only require the administration of subject area tests for
31 courses in English II, Algebra I and Biology. The State Board of
32 Education shall adopt a policy abolishing the requirement of
33 administration of the United States History end-of-course subject
34 area test to all public high school students, which in previous
35 academic years, has been required for a student to meet the
36 requirements for a standard Mississippi high school diploma and
37 included as a factor in accountability ratings.

38 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
39 amended as follows:

40 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
41 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
42 minimum:

43 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by
44 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of
45 Education * * *; and



46 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
47 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
48 school board.

49 (* * *2) The school board of each school district shall
50 maintain, by school, information on high school graduation rates.
51 High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty percent (80%)
52 must submit a detailed plan to the * * * State Department of
53 Education to restructure the high school experience to improve
54 graduation rates.

55 (* * *3) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
56 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
57 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

58 (* * *4) The State Board of Education may establish student
59 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to
60 graduation.

61 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-3-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
62 amended as follows:

63 37-3-49. (1) The State Department of Education shall
64 provide an instructional program and establish guidelines and
65 procedures for managing such program in the public schools within
66 the school districts throughout the state as part of the State
67 Program of Educational Accountability and Assessment of
68 Performance as prescribed in Section 37-3-46. Public school
69 districts may (a) elect to adopt the instructional program and
70 management system provided by the State Department of Education,



71 or (b) elect to adopt an instructional program and management
72 system which meets or exceeds criteria established by the State
73 Department of Education for such. This provision shall begin with
74 the courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain skills tested
75 through the Mississippi Basic Skills Assessment Program and shall
76 proceed through all secondary school courses mandated for
77 graduation and all secondary school courses in the * * *
78 end-of-course testing program in the subject areas of English II,
79 Algebra I and Biology. Other state core objectives must be
80 included in the district's instructional program as they are
81 provided by the State Department of Education along with
82 instructional practices, resources, evaluation items and
83 management procedures. Districts are encouraged to adapt this
84 program and accompanying procedures to all other instructional
85 areas. The department shall provide that such program and
86 guidelines, or a program and guidelines developed by a local
87 school district which incorporates the core objectives from the
88 curriculum structure are enforced through the performance-based
89 accreditation system. It is the intent of the Legislature that
90 every effort be made to protect the instructional time in the
91 classroom and reduce the amount of paperwork which must be
92 completed by teachers. The State Department of Education shall
93 take steps to insure that school districts properly use staff
94 development time to work on the districts' instructional
95 management plans.



96 (2) The State Department of Education shall provide such
97 instructional program and management guidelines which shall
98 require for every public school district that:

99 (a) All courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain
100 skills which are tested through the Mississippi Basic Skills
101 Assessment Program, all secondary school courses mandated for
102 graduation, and all courses in the end-of-course testing program
103 in the subject areas of English II, Algebra I and Biology shall
104 include the State Department of Education's written list of
105 learning objectives.

106 (b) The local school board must adopt the objectives
107 that will form the core curriculum which will be systematically
108 delivered throughout the district.

109 (c) The set of objectives provided by the State
110 Department of Education must be accompanied by suggested
111 instructional practices and resources that would help teachers
112 organize instruction so as to promote student learning of the
113 objectives. Objectives added by the school district must also be
114 accompanied by suggested instructional practices and resources
115 that would help teachers organize instruction. The instructional
116 practices and resources that are identified are to be used as
117 suggestions and not as requirements that teachers must follow.
118 The goal of the program is to have students to achieve the desired
119 objective and not to limit teachers in the way they teach.



120 (d) Standards for student performance must be
121 established for each core objective in the local program and those
122 standards establish the district's definition of mastery for each
123 objective.

124 (e) There shall be an annual review of student
125 performance in the instructional program against locally
126 established standards. When weaknesses exist in the local
127 instructional program, the district shall take action to improve
128 student performance.

129 (3) The State Board of Education and the board of trustees
130 of each school district shall adopt policies to limit and reduce
131 the number and length of written reports that classroom teachers
132 are required to prepare.

133 (4) This section shall not be construed to limit teachers
134 from using their own professional skills to help students master
135 instructional objectives, nor shall it be construed as a call for
136 more detailed or complex lesson plans or any increase in testing
137 at the local school district level.

138 (5) Districts meeting the highest levels of accreditation
139 standards, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall be
140 exempted from the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

141 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-15-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
142 amended as follows:



143 37-15-38. (1) The following phrases have the meanings
144 ascribed in this section unless the context clearly requires
145 otherwise:

146 (a) A dual enrolled student is a student who is
147 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
148 higher learning while enrolled in high school.

149 (b) A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled
150 in a community or junior college or state institution of higher
151 learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high
152 school and college credit for postsecondary coursework.

153 (2) A local school board, the Board of Trustees of State
154 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community
155 College Board shall establish a dual enrollment system under which
156 students in the school district who meet the prescribed criteria
157 of this section may be enrolled in a postsecondary institution in
158 Mississippi while they are still in school.

159 (3) **Dual credit eligibility.** Before credits earned by a
160 qualified high school student from a community or junior college
161 or state institution of higher learning may be transferred to the
162 student's home school district, the student must be properly
163 enrolled in a dual enrollment program.

164 (4) **Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and**
165 **junior college or university programs.** The Mississippi Community
166 College Board and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
167 Higher Learning may recommend to the State Board of Education



168 admission criteria for dual enrollment programs under which high
169 school students may enroll at a community or junior college or
170 university while they are still attending high school and enrolled
171 in high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in
172 community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment
173 programs if they meet that individual institution's stated dual
174 enrollment admission requirements.

175 (5) **Tuition and cost responsibility.** Tuition and costs for
176 university-level courses and community and junior college courses
177 offered under a dual enrollment program may be paid for by the
178 postsecondary institution, the local school district, the parents
179 or legal guardians of the student, or by grants, foundations or
180 other private or public sources. Payment for tuition and any
181 other costs must be made directly to the credit-granting
182 institution.

183 (6) **Transportation responsibility.** Any transportation
184 required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment
185 program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal
186 guardian of the student. Transportation costs may be paid from
187 any available public or private sources, including the local
188 school district.

189 (7) **School district average daily attendance credit.** When
190 dually enrolled, the student may be counted, for adequate
191 education program funding purposes, in the average daily



192 attendance of the public school district in which the student
193 attends high school.

194 (8) **High school student transcript transfer requirements.**

195 Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual
196 credit program must be recorded on the high school student record
197 and on the college transcript at the university or community or
198 junior college where the student attends classes. The transcript
199 of the university or community or junior college coursework may be
200 released to another institution or applied toward college
201 graduation requirements.

202 (9) **Determining factor of prerequisites for dual enrollment**

203 **courses.** Each university and community or junior college
204 participating in a dual enrollment program shall determine course
205 prerequisites. Course prerequisites shall be the same for dual
206 enrolled students as for regularly enrolled students at that
207 university or community or junior college.

208 (10) **Process for determining articulation of curriculum**
209 **between high school, university, and community and junior college**

210 **courses.** All dual credit courses must meet the standards
211 established at the postsecondary level. Postsecondary level
212 developmental courses may not be considered as meeting the
213 requirements of the dual credit program. Dual credit memorandum
214 of understandings must be established between each postsecondary
215 institution and the school district implementing a dual credit
216 program.



217 (11) [Deleted]

218 (12) **Eligible courses for dual credit programs.** Courses
219 eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited
220 to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science
221 courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and
222 career and technical courses. Distance Learning Collaborative
223 Program courses approved under Section 37-67-1 shall be fully
224 eligible for dual credit. All courses being considered for dual
225 credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent
226 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer
227 at the participating community or junior college or university in
228 order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community
229 or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses
230 are eligible for semester hour credits.

231 (13) **High school Carnegie unit equivalency.** One (1)
232 three-hour university or community or junior college course is
233 equal to one (1) high school Carnegie unit.

234 (14) **Course alignment.** The universities, community and
235 junior colleges and the State Department of Education shall
236 periodically review their respective policies and assess the place
237 of dual credit courses within the context of their traditional
238 offerings.

239 (15) **Maximum dual credits allowed.** It is the intent of the
240 dual enrollment program to make it possible for every eligible
241 student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit



242 in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school
243 student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or
244 university credits for dual credit.

245 (16) **Dual credit program allowances.** A student may be
246 granted credit delivered through the following means:

247 (a) Examination preparation taught at a high school by
248 a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the
249 secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing
250 the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or
251 International Baccalaureate course through which a high school
252 student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on
253 the end-of-course examination.

254 (b) College or university courses taught at a high
255 school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who
256 is an employee of the school district and approved as an
257 instructor by the collaborating college or university.

258 (c) College or university courses taught at a college,
259 university or high school by an instructor employed by the college
260 or university and approved by the collaborating school district.

261 (d) Online courses of any public university, community
262 or junior college in Mississippi.

263 (17) **Qualifications of dual credit instructors.** A dual
264 credit academic instructor must meet the requirements set forth by
265 the regional accrediting association (Southern Association of
266 College and Schools). University and community and junior college



267 personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit
268 instructors.

269 A dual credit career and technical education instructor must
270 meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi Community
271 College Board in the qualifications manual for postsecondary
272 career and technical personnel.

273 (18) **Guidance on local agreements.** The Chief Academic
274 Officer of the State Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
275 Higher Learning and the Chief Instructional Officers of the
276 Mississippi Community College Board and the State Department of
277 Education, working collaboratively, shall develop a template to be
278 used by the individual community and junior colleges and
279 institutions of higher learning for consistent implementation of
280 the dual enrollment program throughout the State of Mississippi.

281 (19) **Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option.**
282 A local school board and the local community colleges board shall
283 establish a Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option
284 Program under which potential or recent student dropouts may
285 dually enroll in their home school and a local community college
286 in a dual credit program consisting of high school completion
287 coursework and a community college credential, certificate or
288 degree program. Students completing the dual enrollment-credit
289 option may obtain their high school diploma while obtaining a
290 community college credential, certificate or degree. The
291 Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall assist



292 students who have successfully completed the Mississippi Works
293 Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option in securing a job upon the
294 application of the student or the participating school or
295 community college. The Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual
296 Credit Option Program will be implemented statewide in the
297 2012-2013 school year and thereafter. The State Board of
298 Education, local school board and the local community college
299 board shall establish criteria for the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit
300 Program. Students enrolled in the program will not be eligible to
301 participate in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular
302 activities at the home school district. Tuition and costs for
303 community college courses offered under the Dual Enrollment-Dual
304 Credit Program shall not be charged to the student, parents or
305 legal guardians. When dually enrolled, the student shall be
306 counted for adequate education program funding purposes, in the
307 average daily attendance of the public school district in which
308 the student attends high school, as provided in Section
309 37-151-7(1)(a). Any transportation required by the student to
310 participate in the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Program is the
311 responsibility of the parent or legal guardian of the student, and
312 transportation costs may be paid from any available public or
313 private sources, including the local school district. Grades and
314 college credits earned by a student admitted to this Dual
315 Enrollment-Dual Credit Program shall be recorded on the high
316 school student record and on the college transcript at the



317 community college and high school where the student attends
318 classes. The transcript of the community college coursework may
319 be released to another institution or applied toward college
320 graduation requirements. Except for United States History, any
321 course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement
322 for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is eligible for
323 dual credit * * *. Courses eligible for dual credit * * * include
324 career, technical and degree program courses. All courses
325 eligible for dual credit shall be approved by the superintendent
326 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer
327 at the participating community college in order for college credit
328 to be awarded. A community college shall make the final decision
329 on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits and the
330 local school superintendent, subject to approval by the
331 Mississippi Department of Education, shall make the final decision
332 on the transfer of college courses credited to the student's high
333 school transcript.

334 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-16-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
335 amended as follows:

336 37-16-17. (1) **Purpose.** (a) The purpose of this section is
337 to create a quality option in Mississippi's high schools for
338 students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which shall
339 consist of challenging academic courses and modern
340 career-technical studies. The goal for students pursuing the
341 career technical education pathways is to graduate from high



342 school with a standard diploma and credit toward a community
343 college certification in a career-technical field. These students
344 also shall be encouraged to take the national assessment in the
345 career-technical field in which they become certified.

346 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and
347 adopt course and curriculum requirements for career technical
348 education pathways offered by local public school boards in
349 accordance with this section. The Mississippi Community College
350 Board and the State Board of Education jointly shall determine
351 course and curriculum requirements for the career technical
352 education pathways. The State Board of Education shall require
353 school districts to provide notice to all incoming middle school
354 students and junior high students of the career technical
355 education pathways offered by local school boards. Such notice
356 shall include the career technical education pathways available,
357 the course requirements of each pathway, how to enroll in the
358 pathway and any other necessary information as determined by the
359 State Board of Education.

360 (2) **Career technical education pathway; description;**
361 **curriculum.** (a) A career technical education pathway shall
362 provide a student with greater technical skill and a strong
363 academic core and shall be offered to each high school student
364 enrolled in a public school district. The career technical
365 education pathway shall be linked to postsecondary options and
366 shall prepare students to pursue either a degree or certification



367 from a postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or
368 certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate
369 entrance into a career field. The career technical education
370 pathway shall provide students with alternatives to entrance into
371 a four-year university or college after high school graduation.

372 (b) Students pursuing a career technical education
373 pathway shall be afforded the opportunity to dually enroll in a
374 community or technical college or to participate in a business
375 internship or work-study program, when such opportunities are
376 available and appropriate.

377 (c) Each public school district shall offer a career
378 technical education pathway approved by the State Board of
379 Education.

380 (d) Students in a career technical education pathway
381 shall complete an academic core of courses and a career and
382 technical sequence of courses.

383 (e) Students pursuing a career technical education
384 pathway must complete the twenty-four (24) course unit
385 requirements for a regular high school diploma, which may include,
386 but not be limited to the following course content:

- 387 (i) English I;
388 (ii) English II;
389 (iii) Technical writing;
390 (iv) Computer programming;
391 (v) Algebra I;



- 392 (vi) Personal Finance;
- 393 (vii) Advanced technical mathematics;
- 394 (viii) Computer Science;
- 395 (ix) Biology;
- 396 (x) Earth and Space Science;
- 397 (xi) U.S. History;
- 398 (xii) Mississippi Studies/U.S. Government;
- 399 (xiii) Health;
- 400 (xiv) Physical Education;
- 401 (xv) Soft skills, which include, but are not
- 402 limited to, communication ability, language skills, time
- 403 management, teamwork and leadership traits;
- 404 (xvi) Career technical education pathway courses;
- 405 and
- 406 (xvii) Integrated technology.

407 Academic courses within the career technical education

408 pathway of the standard diploma shall provide the knowledge and

409 skill necessary for proficiency on the state subject area tests in

410 English II, Algebra I and Biology.

411 (f) The courses provided in paragraph (e) of this

412 subsection may be tailored to the individual needs of the school

413 district as long as the amendments align with the basic course

414 requirements of paragraph (e).

415 (3) Nothing in this section shall disallow the development

416 of a dual enrollment program with a technical college so long as



417 an individual school district, with approval from the State
418 Department of Education, agrees to implement such a program in
419 connection with a technical college and the agreement is also
420 approved by the proprietary school's commission.

421 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-35-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
422 amended as follows:

423 37-35-3. (1) The board of trustees of any school district,
424 including any community/junior college, may establish and maintain
425 classes for adults, including general educational development
426 classes, under the regulations authorized in this chapter and
427 pursuant to the standards prescribed in subsection (3). The
428 property and facilities of the public school districts may be used
429 for this purpose where such use does not conflict with uses
430 already established.

431 (2) The trustees of any school district desiring to
432 establish such program may request the taxing authority of the
433 district to levy additional ad valorem taxes for the support of
434 this program. The board of supervisors, in the case of a county
435 school district, a special municipal separate school district, or
436 a community/junior college district, and the governing authority
437 of any municipality, in the case of a municipal separate school
438 district, is authorized, in its discretion, to levy a tax not
439 exceeding one (1) mill upon all the taxable property of the
440 district for the support of this program. The tax shall be in
441 addition to all other taxes authorized by law to be levied. In



442 addition to the funds realized from any such levy, the board of
443 trustees of any school district is authorized to use any surplus
444 funds that it may have or that may be made available to it from
445 local sources to supplement this program.

446 (3) (a) Any student participating in an approved High
447 School Equivalency Diploma Option program administered by a local
448 school district or a local school district with an approved
449 contractual agreement with a community/junior college or other
450 local entity shall not be considered a dropout. Students in such
451 a program administered by a local school district shall be
452 considered as enrolled within the school district of origin for
453 the purpose of enrollment for * * * adequate education program
454 funding only. Such students shall not be considered as enrolled
455 in the regular school program for academic or programmatic
456 purposes.

457 (b) Students participating in an approved High School
458 Equivalency Diploma Option program shall have an individual career
459 plan developed at the time of placement to insure that the
460 student's academic and job skill needs will be met. The
461 Individual Career Plan will address, but is not limited to, the
462 following:

463 (i) Academic/instructional needs of the student;
464 (ii) Job readiness needs of the student; and
465 (iii) Work experience program options available
466 for the student.



467 (c) Students participating in an approved High School
468 Equivalency Diploma Option program may participate in existing job
469 and skills development programs or in similar programs developed
470 in conjunction with the High School Equivalency Diploma Option
471 program and the vocational director.

472 (d) High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may
473 be operated by local school districts or may be operated by two
474 (2) or more adjacent school districts, pursuant to a contract
475 approved by the State Board of Education. When two (2) or more
476 school districts contract to operate a High School Equivalency
477 Diploma Option program, the school board of a district designated
478 to be the lead district shall serve as the governing board of the
479 High School Equivalency Diploma Option program. Transportation
480 for students placed in the High School Equivalency Diploma Option
481 program shall be the responsibility of the school district of
482 origin. The expense of establishing, maintaining and operating
483 such High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may be paid
484 from funds made available to the school district through
485 contributions, * * * adequate education program funds or from
486 local district maintenance funds.

487 (e) The State Department of Education will develop
488 procedures and criteria for placement of a student in the High
489 School Equivalency Diploma Option programs. Students placed in
490 High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs shall have



491 parental approval for such placement and must meet the following
492 criteria:

493 (i) The student must be at least sixteen (16)
494 years of age;

495 (ii) The student must be at least one (1) full
496 grade level behind his or her ninth grade cohort or must have
497 acquired less than four (4) Carnegie units;

498 (iii) The student must have taken every
499 opportunity to continue to participate in coursework leading to a
500 diploma; and

501 (iv) The student must be certified to be eligible
502 to participate in the GED course by the school district
503 superintendent, based on the developed criteria.

504 (f) Students participating in an approved High School
505 Equivalency Diploma Option program, who are enrolled in subject
506 area courses through January 31 in a school with a traditional
507 class schedule or who are enrolled in subject area courses through
508 October 31 or through March 31 in a school on a block schedule,
509 notwithstanding courses in United States History, shall be
510 required to take the end-of-course subject area tests for those
511 courses in which they are enrolled.

512 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
513 and after July 1, 2024.

