

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 250

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PLANNING
 2 PROGRAM IN ORDER TO LOWER EDUCATIONAL COSTS, SHORTEN A STUDENT'S
 3 TIME TO COMPLETE A DEGREE AND INCREASE THE OVERALL SUCCESS RATE OF
 4 STUDENTS BY REDUCING THE NEED FOR REMEDIATION; TO REQUIRE PUBLIC
 5 SCHOOLS TO ADMINISTER CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT
 6 STUDENTS HAVE THE CAREER READINESS SKILLS NECESSARY TO COMPETE IN
 7 THE GLOBAL ECONOMY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds that:

10 (a) Many students enter college unprepared for the
 11 academic rigors of college and require noncredit remedial courses
 12 to attain skills and knowledge needed for regular credit
 13 coursework;

14 (b) There is a direct and significant link between
 15 students being prepared academically for college and success in
 16 postsecondary endeavors;

17 (c) Remediation lengthens the time required to obtain a
 18 degree, imposes additional costs on students and colleges, and
 19 uses student financial aid for courses that will not count toward
 20 a degree;



21 (d) A precollege readiness assessment program in public
22 high schools using pre-ACT or pre-SAT assessments will provide
23 early benchmarks for student performance on college readiness
24 exams and inform high school guidance counselors and teachers who
25 assist students with academic achievement, course selection and
26 college readiness skills;

27 (e) A precollege readiness assessment program will
28 provide reportable statewide data, enabling policy and program
29 development that will benefit schools, parents and students; and

30 (f) Consistent use of precollege assessments will
31 increase the number of successful student transitions into
32 postsecondary education.

33 **SECTION 2.** (1) As used in this section:

34 (a) "College readiness assessment" means a test of
35 student educational development which measures student readiness
36 for future learning that is used by:

37 (i) Institutions of higher education as part of
38 their admissions, placement and scholarship processes; and

39 (ii) High schools to improve college and workforce
40 readiness.

41 (b) "College and career readiness" means that a student
42 is academically ready to succeed in college-level courses or in
43 the workforce without the need to enroll in remedial courses
44 during the student's first year.



45 (c) "EXPLORE" means the pre-ACT assessment designed to
46 help students in eighth grade explore a broad range of options for
47 their future and focus not only on high school coursework, but
48 also on post-high school choices.

49 (d) "PLAN" means the pre-ACT assessment for students in
50 tenth grade used to help a student focus attention on improved
51 academic achievement, career preparation and planning for
52 post-high school years.

53 (e) "PSAT" means the Preliminary SAT/National Merit
54 Scholarship Qualifying Test that provides practice for the SAT
55 Reasoning Test and gives students feedback on individual strengths
56 and weaknesses on college readiness skills.

57 (2) (a) (i) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each
58 public school that serves students in eighth grade shall
59 administer EXPLORE to each student enrolled in eighth grade at the
60 public school.

61 (ii) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year,
62 each public school that serves students in tenth grade shall
63 administer PLAN or the PSAT to each student enrolled in tenth
64 grade at the public school.

65 (b) Funding for the college readiness assessments
66 listed in paragraph (a) of this subsection may be paid by using
67 State Department of Education at-risk funding.

68 (3) (a) Each public school administering the college
69 readiness assessments under this section shall use the college



70 readiness assessments to assist students with college and
71 workforce readiness skills, course selection in high school and
72 improved academic achievement.

73 (b) Before the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year,
74 each public school shall incorporate the results from college
75 readiness assessments listed in subsection (2)(a) of this section
76 into the college and career planning process for each student.

77 (4) Data collection shall be maintained by the State
78 Department of Education for the purpose of:

79 (a) Increasing college and career readiness skills;

80 (b) Improving instruction;

81 (c) Enhancing school improvement plans; and

82 (d) Reducing the college remediation rates of students.

83 (5) The State Department of Education shall report to the
84 House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education
85 before September 30, 2027, and each year thereafter, on the
86 implementation and effectiveness of the College and Career
87 Readiness Planning Program.

88 (6) The department shall promulgate rules to implement this
89 section and shall monitor the use of college readiness assessments
90 administered under this section to ensure public school
91 compliance.

92 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2024.

