

By: Representative Porter

To: Education;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1397

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS FOR  
 2 SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL  
 3 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES TO CLASSROOM  
 4 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH 40% OR MORE OF THE  
 5 TOTAL STUDENTS ENROLLED RECEIVING FREE LUNCH UNDER THE NATIONAL  
 6 SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT  
 7 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO  
 8 PROVIDE THAT THE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH QUALIFYING  
 9 SCHOOL DISTRICT AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND  
 10 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Mississippi  
 13 Educational Supports for Schools Grant Program which shall be  
 14 administered by the State Department of Education.

15 (2) (a) In order to assist eligible school districts in  
 16 providing additional instructional materials, educational  
 17 equipment and education services to classroom teachers and  
 18 students for purpose of promoting, strengthening, improving and  
 19 sustaining academic achievement, funds from the program shall be  
 20 distributed, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to each  
 21 eligible school district as determined by the State Board of  
 22 Education.



23 (b) For purposes of this act:

24 (i) "Instructional materials" means all materials  
25 that are designed for use by students and their teachers as a  
26 learning resource, and which help students acquire facts, skills  
27 or opinions, or to develop cognitive processes. Instructional  
28 materials may be printed or nonprinted, and may include textbooks,  
29 technology-based materials, other educational materials, and  
30 assessments.

31 (ii) "Educational equipment" means the tools and  
32 resources used to facilitate learning and teaching in a formal  
33 educational setting, which such tools can include physical  
34 equipment, such as laboratory apparatus and audiovisual aids, as  
35 well as software and online tools that support classroom  
36 instruction by enhancing understanding, encouraging active  
37 learning, improving accessibility and saves time.

38 (iii) "Educational services" means professional  
39 services in fulfilling educational functions performed by any  
40 licensed professional employed by or contracted by a school  
41 district, and acting on behalf of the school district while acting  
42 solely in their capacity as such and solely within the scope of  
43 their employment with or in representation of the school district.

44 (3) (a) The department shall distribute grants to each  
45 school district that has forty percent (40%) or more of the total  
46 students enrolled in the district receiving free lunch under the



47 National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program in the  
48 amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00).

49 (b) The use of any funds received from the department  
50 under the Mississippi Educational Supports for Schools Grant  
51 Program shall be limited to the purposes described in subsection  
52 (2) of this section only, and shall not be used for the payment of  
53 any salary compensation of any school district employee.

54 (4) The department shall adopt such reasonable rules as  
55 necessary for the administration of the program, but shall not  
56 place additional qualification requirements on school districts  
57 other than the minimum requirements in this section.

58 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2024.

