

By: Representatives Oliver, Read, Arnold,
Boyd (19th), Hines, Mangold, Massengill,
Roberson, Scoggin

To: Appropriations E;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1823

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING
2 K-12 AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN
3 AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE FISCAL
4 YEAR 2025.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
7 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in the State
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
9 funding K-12 and other related educational activities, including
10 certain agencies and programs, in the State of Mississippi, for
11 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025,
12 as follows:

13 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
14 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education, and
15 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
16 Division.....\$ 116,729,998.00.

17 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
18 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
19 Division of the State Department of Education.....



20\$ 86,494,722.00.

21 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
22 paying annual compensation to the Chickasaw Cession counties for
23 sixteenth section lands which they lost through sale by the state,
24 as provided in Sections 29-3-137 through 29-3-141, Mississippi
25 Code of 1972.....\$ 15,223,869.00.

26 (d) To the State Board of Education for defraying the
27 expenses of the INSPIRE Program.....\$ 2,729,929,401.00.

28 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
29 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,948,377,990.00.

30 **SECTION 2.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
31 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in any special
32 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or
33 funds of the agencies or programs specified in the following
34 paragraphs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
35 June 30, 2025, as follows:

36 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
37 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,
38 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
39 Division.....\$ 1,984,657,500.00.

40 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
41 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
42 Division of the State Department of Education.....
43\$ 22,707,865.00.



44 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
45 defraying the expenses of the INSPIRE Program.....
46\$ 271,840,375.00.

47 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
48 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,279,205,740.00.

49 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
50 Hundred Twenty-six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-two Dollars
51 (\$126,472.00), or so much of that sum as may be necessary, is
52 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit
53 of the Health Care Expendable Fund to the State Department of
54 Education for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
55 department for the Mississippi Eye Screening Program for providing
56 vision safety services.

57 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the
58 following sums, or so much of those sums as may be necessary, are
59 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of
60 the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and
61 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

62 (a) To the State Department of Education, excluding the
63 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division, for
64 the following purposes:

65 Literacy Initiative and Assessment.....\$ 6,805,774.00
66 Educable Child.....\$ 7,000,000.00
67 Grants to school districts for
68 capital facilities and buses.....\$ 16,000,000.00



69	Instructional materials.....	\$ 25,000,000.00
70	Students with Special Needs.....	\$ 1,800,000.00
71	Implementing Performance-Based Data	
72	Collection and Accreditation	
73	Model.....	\$ 274,937.00
74	Testing.....	\$ 6,125,670.00
75	Mississippi School for Math and	
76	Science.....	\$ 725,000.00
77	Mississippi School for Fine Arts.	\$ 777,632.00
78	Early Learning Collaboratives.....	\$ 16,210,526.00
79	Other Early Learning Programs.....	\$ 13,271,822.00
80	Early Learning Coaches.....	\$ 3,251,533.00
81	Math Coaches.....	\$ 5,000,000.00
82	WorkKeys.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
83	Advanced Placement, Dual Credits,	
84	International Baccalaureate,	
85	Cambridge Diploma Endorsements.....	\$ 300,000.00
86	Vocational Technical Grants.....	\$ 1,000,000.00
87	Mississippi School for the Deaf	
88	and Blind.....	\$ 1,407,037.00
89	TOTAL.....	\$ 105,949,931.00
90	(b) To the State Department of Education to defray the	
91	expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division.....	
92	\$ 6,637,258.00.



93 (c) To the State Department of Education to provide
94 funding for the INSPIRE Program.....
95\$ 271,840,375.00.

96 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the
97 following positions are authorized for the State Department of
98 Education, excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical
99 Education Division:

100 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

101 Permanent: 319
102 Time-Limited: 124

103 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
104 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
105 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
106 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
107 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
108 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal
109 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall
110 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency
111 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the
112 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to
113 the personal services amount must be approved by the State
114 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation
115 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be
116 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate
117 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services



118 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved
119 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active
120 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's
121 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are
122 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,
123 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
124 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board
125 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any
126 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board
127 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in
128 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the
129 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the
130 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the
131 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
132 Board.

133 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
134 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
135 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
136 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
137 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
138 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the
139 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
140 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
141 essential for the agency.



142 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
143 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
144 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
145 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
146 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
147 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
148 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
149 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
150 appropriated level.

151 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
152 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for
153 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
154 withdrawn and no longer available.

155 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
156 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A
157 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
158 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

159 **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
160 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
161 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be
162 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to
163 achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education,
164 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
165 Division. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make



166 every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided
167 below:

168 FY2025

169 Performance Measures Target

170 Special Education

171 Number of Special Education Teachers (FTE) 5,963

172 Number of Gifted Education Teachers 730

173 Percent Increase of Children with

174 Disabilities in General Education Early

175 Childhood Programs while Decreasing the

176 Percent in Self-Contained Special

177 Education Early Childhood Classrooms 76.00

178 General Administration

179 Total Dollars Spent on General

180 Administration 19,250,220.00

181 Percent of Total Budget Spent on General

182 Administration 15.70

183 Create a Public-Facing Data System for

184 All Stakeholders 100.00

185 Create a User-Friendly Website for the

186 Public and School Districts to Access

187 Data to Make Decisions 100.00

188 Create a Roadmap to Improve the

189 Mississippi Student Information System 100.00

190 Number of Research Results Published to



191	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
192	Teacher Effectiveness	0.00
193	Early Childhood Education	
194	Percent Increase of Kindergarten	
195	Students Achieving End-Of-Year Target	
196	Score on Kindergarten Readiness	
197	Post-Test	69.74
198	Percent Increase of Early Learning	
199	Collaborative Sites Meeting Required	
200	Rate of Readiness	95.95
201	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
202	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	8,778
203	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
204	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
205	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
206	That Are High Poverty	31.00
207	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
208	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
209	That Are High Minority	35.00
210	Percent Increase of Districts Reporting	
211	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
212	for Teachers and Leaders	96.00
213	Percent Increase of Teacher Candidates	
214	Passing Licensure Exams on the First	
215	Attempt	45.00



216	Increase the Number of Licensed, Diverse	
217	Teachers and Leaders	35.00
218	Elementary Education	
219	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
220	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
221	First Administration in Each Subgroup	80.00
222	Secondary Education	
223	Increase the Number of Students	
224	Participating in and Passing Advanced	
225	Placement (AP), International	
226	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
227	in Each Subgroup	37.00
228	Percent Increase of Students Ready for	
229	College as Measured by Meeting ACT	
230	Benchmarks in Each Content Area (Public	
231	School Class Data, Grade 11)	11.00
232	Assessment & Development	
233	Increase the Percent of Students	
234	Proficient (Levels 4-5) on Statewide	
235	Assessments (Grades 3-8 & High School	
236	Composite) in Each Subgroup	53.00
237	Decrease the Percent of Students Scoring	
238	Levels 1-3 on Statewide Assessments in	
239	Each Subgroup	47.00
240	Increase Percent of Pre-Kindergarten	



241	Students in Public Schools Attaining	
242	Kindergarten Readiness on the Pre-K	
243	End-Of-Year Assessment	72.00
244	School Performance	
245	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	80.00
246	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	80.00
247	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
248	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
249	Subgroup	66.00
250	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
251	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
252	Subgroup	68.00
253	Percent of Students Participating in	
254	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	50.00
255	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
256	in Each Subgroup	98.00
257	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
258	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
259	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
260	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	76.00
261	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
262	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	
263	Increasing the Number of Points within a	
264	Letter Grade	70.00
265	Increase the Growth of Districts of	



266 Transformation by Improving the Letter
 267 Grade and/or Increasing the Number of
 268 Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
 269 Increase the Growth of Schools Under
 270 Districts of Transformation by Improving
 271 the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the
 272 Number of Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
 273 Decrease the Number of High Schools
 274 Rated D or F 40.00

275 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
 276 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
 277 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
 278 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

279 **SECTION 7.** No school district shall expend any funds,
 280 received under the School Ad Valorem Reduction Grant, unless such
 281 school district has specifically identified the amount of the
 282 grant within the published budget as required by Section 37-61-9,
 283 Mississippi Code of 1972. The published budget shall include the
 284 following statement: "Ad Valorem taxes will be \$_____ less as
 285 a result of the Ad Valorem Reduction Grants enacted by the
 286 Mississippi Legislature in 1992."

287 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
 288 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from
 289 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
 290 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of



291 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for
292 the School for Math and Science.

293 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
294 this act, the following positions are authorized for the
295 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
296 Department of Education:

297 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

298 Permanent: 48

299 Time-Limited: 5

300 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
301 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
302 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds
303 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
304 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi
305 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal
306 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall
307 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency
308 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the
309 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to
310 the personal services amount must be approved by the State
311 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation
312 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be
313 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate
314 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services
315 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved



316 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active
317 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's
318 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are
319 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,
320 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
321 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board
322 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any
323 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board
324 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in
325 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the
326 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the
327 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the
328 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel
329 Board.

330 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
331 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
332 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
333 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025 do
334 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
335 the agency's projected cost for Fiscal Year 2025 exceeds the
336 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
337 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
338 essential for the agency.

339 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
340 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or



341 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
342 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
343 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
344 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
345 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
346 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
347 appropriated level.

348 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
349 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds used for
350 salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are
351 withdrawn and no longer available.

352 None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in
353 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A
354 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as
355 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

356 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
357 not to exceed One Million Twenty-three Thousand Five Hundred
358 Seventy-four Dollars (\$1,023,574.00) is authorized for the support
359 of vocational and technical education programs as authorized in
360 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess
361 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.

362 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
363 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
364 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in
365 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars



366 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
367 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase
368 soil conservation equipment.

369 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, no more
370 than One Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) is
371 provided for the purpose of supporting the Future Farmers of
372 America Center.

373 **SECTION 13.** The State Department of Education shall transfer
374 the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall
375 assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in
376 accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any
377 improper expenditure, for the following:

378 Detention Centers.....	\$ 2,975,000.00.
379 Dyslexia Program.....	\$ 225,000.00.
380 Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$ 1,100,000.00.
381 Magnolia Speech School.....	\$ 1,000,000.00.
382 Principal Corp.....	\$ 200,000.00.
383 Sight Savers.....	\$ 375,000.00.
384 Teach for America.....	\$ 1,250,000.00.
385 Teacher Corp.....	\$ 200,000.00.
386 Vision Screening Research.....	\$ 225,000.00.
387 Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$ 200,000,00.
388 Algebra Nation.....	\$ 1,100,000.00.
389 Save the Children.....	\$ 75,000.00.
390 Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$ 212,500.00.



391 T. K. Martin Center.....\$ 75,000.00.
392 JumpStart Act.....\$ 250,000.00.
393 Mastery Prep.....\$ 200,000.00.
394 Arts for All Mississippi.....\$ 40,000.00.
395 TOTAL.....\$ 9,702,500.00.

396 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
397 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section
398 4(a), Thirteen Million Two Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Eight
399 Hundred Twenty-two Dollars (\$13,271,822.00) is included for the
400 Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant opportunities
401 for Other Early Learning Programs through public schools including
402 other public school preschool programs not participating in Early
403 Learning Collaboratives.

404 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
405 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
406 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for
407 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic
408 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi
409 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and
410 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.
411 All programs must meet Mississippi Science Standards and/or
412 College and Career Standards.

413 Of the funds appropriated in this section, an amount not to
414 exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be distributed to
415 the Mississippi State University Center for Cyber Education and



416 used for computer science programs development and teacher
417 training for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools
418 for the purpose of developing K-12 computer science curricula,
419 including both academic and career and technical education
420 programs, developing and delivering teacher training, and working
421 with the State Board of Education and Institutions of Higher
422 Learning in the state to develop teacher preparation programs for
423 computer science endorsements. All programs must meet the 2018
424 Mississippi Computer Science Standards and/or Mississippi College
425 and Career Standards.

426 **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
427 computer science courses may be taught by certified teacher or for
428 elementary level classes, computer science courses may be taught
429 by teachers who are trained by the district in computer science
430 instruction.

431 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum
432 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),
433 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the
434 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the
435 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution
436 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school
437 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of
438 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the
439 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the



440 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal
441 Year 1985.

442 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds provided in this act for the
443 purpose of funding the INSPIRE Program, the Student Base Amount in
444 Fiscal Year 2025 shall be Six Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars
445 (\$6,650.00).

446 **SECTION 19.** With the funds provided in this act, it is the
447 intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and
448 academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the
449 Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual
450 increment.

451 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
452 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and
453 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
454 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the
455 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year
456 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
457 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the
458 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail
459 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the
460 Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process for each agency and
461 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

462 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) to the
463 State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-three Million
464 Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$23,080,000.00) shall be used for



465 National Board Certification. Of this amount, Seven Hundred
466 Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be used for the World Class
467 Teacher Program providing instruction and assistance to teachers
468 seeking National Board Certification.

469 **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and
470 Section 4(a) not less than Fifteen Million Fifty-eight Thousand
471 Dollars (\$15,058,000.00) shall be used for the Educable Child
472 Program. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State
473 Board of Education shall allocate funding for the Educable Child
474 Program based upon a recalculated formula in a manner to include
475 only those billable days funded through appropriation of state
476 funds and not District funds. It is the intent of the Legislature
477 that the Educable Child funds shall be exempt from budget cuts
478 made to the Department of Education by the Legislature and/or the
479 Office of the Governor.

480 **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
481 Section 4(a), not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00)
482 shall be used for the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program.
483 It is the intent of the Legislature that the Education Scholarship
484 Account (ESA) funds shall not be reduced by the State Department
485 of Education and/or the Office of the Governor.

486 **SECTION 24.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a),
487 Twelve Million Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty
488 Dollars (\$12,513,420.00) is provided to fund the health insurance
489 premium increase for all public school teachers.



490 **SECTION 25.** The public school districts of the state are
491 authorized at their discretion to pay with local funds one hundred
492 percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance premiums of the
493 State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan for all retired
494 members of the Public Employees' Retirement System who are
495 employed as school bus drivers by the school districts. It is the
496 intention of the Legislature that no state funds shall be used for
497 this purpose.

498 **SECTION 26.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
499 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
500 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
501 stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price,
502 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
503 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
504 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
505 made without competitive bids.

506 **SECTION 27.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less
507 than Six Million Four Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred
508 Ninety-eight Dollars (\$6,414,898.00) shall be used for the
509 Compulsory School Attendance Office and School Attendance
510 Officers.

511 **SECTION 28.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the
512 intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand
513 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary
514 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The



515 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is
516 provided from the Department of Health.

517 **SECTION 29.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
518 State Board of Education shall charge a fee for room and board for
519 students who enroll in the Mississippi School for Mathematics and
520 Science and the Mississippi School of Arts. Such fees will be
521 waived for any student enrolled in the State Children's Health
522 Insurance Program. The amount of such fees shall be Five Hundred
523 Dollars (\$500.00) for each semester.

524 **SECTION 30.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
525 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under
526 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the
527 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a
528 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

529 **SECTION 31.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
530 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or
531 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars
532 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of
533 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency
534 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code
535 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
536 June 30, 2025. The school districts receiving these loans shall
537 repay the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the
538 loan on or before June 30, 2025.



539 **SECTION 32.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven
540 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the
541 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2024.

542 **SECTION 33.** Any school district receiving funds through Save
543 the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local
544 funds for implementation of the program.

545 **SECTION 34.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
546 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi
547 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant
548 program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%)
549 may be used for training and administrative costs related to
550 oversight and auditing of the program.

551 **SECTION 35.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
552 Section 2(a), Twenty-four Million Dollars (\$24,000,000.00) is
553 provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The
554 funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in
555 Fiscal Year 2025 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five
556 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and
557 no less than One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00)
558 per student in a half-day program. Funds must be matched as
559 provided by Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972.

560 **SECTION 36.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
561 Section 4(a), Fifteen Million Ninety-four Thousand Five Hundred
562 Dollars (\$15,094,500.00) shall be used for the Literacy Initiative
563 and Assessment and monitoring and evaluating the adoption and



564 implementation of high-quality instructional materials that have
565 been reviewed through the approved state process and distributed
566 through regional textbook depository as outlined in Section
567 37-43-23, Mississippi Code of 1972.

568 **SECTION 37.** Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is
569 provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion
570 of the state accountability model.

571 **SECTION 38.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
572 Million Seven Hundred Thirty-one Thousand Eight Hundred
573 Eighty-three Dollars (\$2,731,883.00) shall be used for the
574 Mississippi School of the Arts and Four Million Six Thousand Eight
575 Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars (\$4,006,828.00) shall be used for the
576 Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. It is the
577 intention of the Legislature that of the funds appropriated in
578 Section 1(a) for the Mississippi School of the Arts, One Million
579 Three Hundred Sixty-five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-one Dollars
580 (\$1,365,941.00) shall be paid to the school no later than July 10,
581 2024, and One Million Three Hundred Sixty-five Thousand Nine
582 Hundred Forty-two Dollars (\$1,365,942.00) shall be paid no later
583 than January 10, 2025. All funds appropriated from Section 4(a)
584 for the Mississippi School of the Arts shall be paid to the school
585 each month within ten (10) working days after such amount was
586 received by the Department of Education. It is the intention of
587 the Legislature that the State Board of Education shall not reduce
588 the appropriated amounts provided in this act for the Mississippi



589 School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and
590 Science.

591 **SECTION 39.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) and
592 Section 2(b), Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is
593 provided for career and technical grants to schools for qualified
594 students as authorized by Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of
595 1972.

596 **SECTION 40.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the
597 following amounts shall be available to the Schools for the Blind
598 and Deaf: Ten Million Four Hundred Seventy-six Thousand Three
599 Hundred Forty-four Dollars (\$10,476,344.00) from Section 1(a), One
600 Million Four Hundred Seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars
601 (\$1,407,037.00) from Section 4(a), and Two Million Three Hundred
602 Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$2,309,725.00)
603 from Section 2(a).

604 **SECTION 41.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
605 not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Three
606 Hundred One Dollars (\$4,171,301.00) is authorized to fully fund
607 the contract between the Department of Education and the Research
608 & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career
609 and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career
610 and technical assessments.

611 **SECTION 42.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) to the
612 State Board of Education, Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Nine
613 Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars (\$562,999.00) is provided for



614 secondary career and technical education instructors teaching at
615 post-secondary institutions.

616 **SECTION 43.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
617 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
618 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund
619 not otherwise appropriated for the purpose of defraying the
620 expenses of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational
621 expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
622 June 30, 2025.....\$ 900,000.00.

623 **SECTION 44.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
624 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
625 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to
626 the credit of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational
627 expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
628 June 30, 2025.....\$ 500,000.00.

629 **SECTION 45.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b), One
630 Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two
631 Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and
632 Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of
633 Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department
634 of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for
635 these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to
636 defray administrative costs.

637 **SECTION 46.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall
638 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry



639 certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that
640 will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative
641 Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2025.

642 **SECTION 47.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
643 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
644 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi
645 Department of Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the
646 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
647 Bill No. 1613, 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning
648 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 12,915,973.00.

649 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
650 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 651 (a) Instructional Materials.....\$ 2,540,973.00.
- 652 (b) Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 3,000,000.00.
- 653 (c) Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 7,375,000.00.

654 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
655 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
656 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
657 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the
658 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
659 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

660 **SECTION 48.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
661 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year
662 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),



663 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be considered having a year of
664 experience for purposes of the annual experience salary increment.

665 **SECTION 49.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid
666 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
667 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
668 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his
669 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or
670 officers in the manner provided by law.

671 **SECTION 50.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
672 and after July 1, 2024.

