

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.

