

By: Senator(s) England

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2555

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ACADEMIC TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2024; TO  
 2 REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL TO LIST ON A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE  
 3 PORTION OF ITS WEBSITE THE LEARNING MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES THAT  
 4 WERE USED FOR STUDENT INSTRUCTION AT THE SCHOOL DURING THE MOST  
 5 RECENTLY COMPLETED SCHOOL YEAR; TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL TO LIST ONLY  
 6 THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC LEARNING  
 7 MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES USED FOR INSTRUCTION; TO ALLOW SCHOOL  
 8 BOARDS WITH LESS THEN 500 STUDENTS TO BE EXEMPT FROM THE  
 9 REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT; TO SET CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS THAT THE ACT  
 10 SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO DO; TO SET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
 11 ACT; TO AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, COUNTY ATTORNEY OF THE  
 12 COUNTY IN WHICH AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OCCURRED, OR A RESIDENT OF  
 13 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BRING AN ACTION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF WHEN  
 14 AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE ACT HAS OCCURRED; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN  
 15 PROCEDURES FOR THE PURCHASING OF LEARNING MATERIALS; AND FOR  
 16 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
 19 "Academic Transparency Act of 2024."

20 **SECTION 2.** For purposes of this act, unless the context  
 21 requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings  
 22 ascribed herein:

23 (a) "Learning materials," includes, but is not limited  
 24 to, the following meanings:



25 (i) Textbooks, reading materials, videos, digital  
26 materials, websites and other online applications; and

27 (ii) Works created by a teacher or staff member  
28 employed under the authority of the school's governing board,  
29 including syllabi, outlines, handouts, presentations and  
30 audio or video materials.

31 (b) "Used for student instruction" means:

32 (i) Assigned, distributed or otherwise presented  
33 to students in any course for which students receive academic  
34 credit or in any educational capacity in which participation of  
35 the student body is required by the school or in which a majority  
36 of students in a given grade level participate; and

37 (ii) Any materials which students are required to  
38 select, if the available selection is restricted to specific  
39 titles.

40 (c) "Activities," includes, but is not limited to, the  
41 following meanings: assemblies, guest lectures or other  
42 educational events facilitated by the institution's staff,  
43 including those conducted by outside individuals or organizations,  
44 excluding student presentations.

45 **SECTION 3.** (1) Each public school in this state shall  
46 prominently list on a publicly accessible portion of its website  
47 by July 1, 2025, the following information:

48 (a) The learning materials and activities that were  
49 used for student instruction at the school during the most



50 recently completed school year, organized at a minimum by subject  
51 area and grade; and

52 (b) Any procedures in effect for the documentation,  
53 review or approval by the principal, administrators  
54 or other teachers regarding the learning materials and activities  
55 used for student instruction at the school.

56 (2) A school shall be required to list only the information  
57 necessary to identify the specific learning materials and  
58 activities used for instruction, including the title and the  
59 author, organization or internet address associated with each  
60 material and activity.

61 (3) A school shall not be required to list learning  
62 materials and activities pursuant to this section under any of  
63 the following circumstances:

64 (a) If the school's governing board is responsible for  
65 the operation of schools with fewer than five hundred (500)  
66 students cumulatively; and

67 (b) If the materials or activities are selected  
68 independently by instructors at a school site with fewer than  
69 fifty (50) students enrolled.

70 (4) Each school with a catalog or documented inventory of  
71 the resources available to students in its school library shall  
72 post on a publicly accessible portion of its website the listing  
73 of available resources.



74 (5) This section shall not be construed to require a school  
75 to post or distribute a learning material or educational activity  
76 in a manner that would constitute an infringement of copyright  
77 under federal or state law.

78 (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require  
79 either:

80 (a) The digital reproduction of the materials  
81 themselves, nor

82 (b) The separate reporting of individual components of  
83 materials produced as a single volume, except that for digital  
84 volumes containing works by multiple authors, the school shall  
85 provide either a table of contents or an internet address that  
86 discloses the discreet works and authors contained within the  
87 volume.

88 **SECTION 4.** (1) To prepare and host the listing of materials  
89 and activities pursuant to Section 3 of this act, a school may:

90 (a) Post and update the listing of learning materials  
91 and activities on an ongoing basis during each school year,  
92 provided the listing is completed by July 1 following the  
93 completion of the school year; and

94 (b) Utilize collaborative online document or  
95 spreadsheet software that allows multiple authorized users to  
96 update or make additions to posted content on an ongoing basis, as  
97 long as a link to the listing is publicly accessible via the  
98 school website.



99           (2) The listing of materials for each school year shall  
100 remain available via the school website until at least the  
101 completion of the following year's listing.

102           **SECTION 5.** The Attorney General, the county attorney for the  
103 county in which an alleged violation of this section occurred, or  
104 a resident of the school district in which the school is located  
105 may bring an action for injunctive relief in the circuit court in  
106 which the school is located to compel the governing board of the  
107 school to bring the school into compliance with this act.

108           **SECTION 6.** (1) The school board of the school or any staff  
109 employed thereby and acting in the course of its official duties  
110 shall not purchase or contract for copyrighted digital learning  
111 materials used for student instruction at the school, including  
112 the renewal of subscription-based materials for which students are  
113 provided individual login credentials or access via electronic  
114 personal devices, unless provision is made to allow parents and  
115 guardians of enrolled students to review the materials within ten  
116 (10) days of the submission of a written request to the school.  
117 The means of provision shall include at least one (1) of the  
118 following:

119           (a) Providing access to the materials at the school  
120 site during the school's normal hours of operation within ten (10)  
121 days of written request; or

122           (b) Providing temporary remote access or login  
123 credentials to at least one (1) copy of the materials for review



124 for at least a twenty-four-hour period following each request, not  
125 to exceed one (1) request per item per household during each  
126 thirty-day period.

127 (2) The parent or guardian shall not be required as a  
128 condition of reviewing the materials to enter into terms of a  
129 nondisclosure agreement nor waive any rights beyond complying with  
130 federal copyright law.

131 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
132 and after July 1, 2024.

