

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2670

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A
 2 FINANCIAL LITERACY CURRICULUM TO BE TAUGHT IN GRADES SIX THROUGH
 3 TWELVE ON OR BEFORE THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR FOR ALL
 4 MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH MISSISSIPPI STUDENT
 5 DURING 10TH, 11TH, OR 12TH GRADE SHALL TAKE AND PASS A ONE-HALF
 6 CARNEGIE UNIT CREDIT COURSE IN PERSONAL FINANCE IN ORDER TO EARN A
 7 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE
 8 TREASURY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "FINANCIAL LITERACY TRUST FUND" THAT
 9 SHALL PROVIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION AND BE ADMINISTERED BY
 10 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO DEVELOP
 11 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUND; TO
 12 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND CONSUMER FINANCE TO
 13 CONTRIBUTE A PORTION OF FUNDS GENERATED FROM PENALTIES AND FEES TO
 14 THE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRUST FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-301,
 15 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT
 16 AND TO SET CERTAIN TOPICS THAT SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR THE FINANCIAL
 17 LITERACY PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Board of Education shall implement
 20 a financial literacy curriculum to be taught in grades six through
 21 twelve on or before the 2025-2026 academic school year. This
 22 section shall apply to all Mississippi students, including those
 23 in public schools, private schools and public charter schools.



24 (2) Each Mississippi student during 10th, 11th, or 12th
25 grade shall take and pass a one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit credit
26 course in personal finance in order to earn a high school diploma.

27 (3) There is established in the State Treasury a special
28 fund to be known as the "Financial Literacy Trust Fund" to provide
29 financial literacy education for this program. The fund shall be
30 administered by the State Board of Education and shall be eligible
31 to accept funds appropriated by the state or federal government.
32 No expenditure from the fund shall cause the fund to be in
33 deficiency at the close of the fiscal year. Unexpended monies
34 remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not
35 lapse into the General Fund but shall be available for expenditure
36 in the subsequent fiscal year. The fund shall be an expendable
37 trust fund and shall not be subject to appropriation or allotment.

38 (4) The State Board of Education shall develop rules and
39 regulations for the implementation of the trust. The board shall
40 annually report to the Legislature all programmatic and financial
41 activities and balances of the fund on or before December 31 of
42 each year.

43 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Banking and Consumer Finance
44 shall have the authority to contribute a portion of funds
45 generated from penalties and fees to the Financial Literacy Trust
46 fund.

47 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
48 amended as follows:



49 37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall
50 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all
51 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

52 (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district
53 and to make such division between the high school grades and
54 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best
55 interests of the school;

56 (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual
57 training and other special subjects into either the elementary or
58 high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;

59 (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school
60 property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the
61 school term and during vacation;

62 (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing
63 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary
64 school improvements;

65 (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the
66 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school
67 or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school
68 property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from
69 school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct
70 occurring on property other than school property or other than at
71 a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil,
72 in the determination of the school superintendent or principal,
73 renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the



74 educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best
75 interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a
76 whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials
77 of the school district;

78 (f) To visit schools in the district, in their
79 discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be
80 done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

81 (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the
82 superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the
83 proper discipline of the school;

84 (h) To exclude from the schools students with what
85 appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided,
86 however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon
87 presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly
88 licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free
89 from such disease;

90 (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the
91 State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37;

92 (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services
93 are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;

94 (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and
95 grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the
96 people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;

97 (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not
98 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board



99 of Education for their own government and for the government of
100 the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special
101 meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

102 (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under
103 their control for such length of time during the year as may be
104 required;

105 (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and
106 the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;

107 (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of
108 schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes
109 on any available funds of the district and to have full control of
110 the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds
111 provided for the support and operation of the schools of such
112 school district whether such funds be derived from state
113 appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise.
114 The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to
115 promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims
116 and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the
117 superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next
118 regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;

119 (p) To select all school district personnel in the
120 manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe
121 benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may
122 be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;



123 (q) To provide athletic programs and other school
124 activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such
125 programs and activities;

126 (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of
127 school boards and other public school-related organizations, and
128 to pay from local funds, other than minimum foundation funds, any
129 membership dues;

130 (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other
131 available school district funds, other than minimum education
132 program funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph.
133 "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials
134 in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any
135 school activity, such activity being part of the school program
136 and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public
137 funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds
138 raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a
139 bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether
140 the funds were raised by school employees or received by school
141 employees during school hours or using school facilities, and
142 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over
143 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall
144 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of
145 any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school
146 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be
147 beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the



148 school. For the purposes of this provision, the term
149 "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the
150 control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may
151 only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,
152 including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in
153 attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,
154 conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel
155 expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local
156 school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial
157 to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,
158 including items which may subsequently become the personal
159 property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,
160 book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay
161 travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school
162 governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate
163 rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes
164 school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing
165 board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be
166 maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating
167 the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school
168 activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the
169 superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the
170 board. The local school governing board shall provide that such
171 school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit
172 required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education



173 shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial
174 reporting for all school activity fund transactions;

175 (t) To enter into an energy performance contract,
176 energy services contract, on a shared_savings, lease or
177 lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or
178 equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14;

179 (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on
180 school food service bank accounts;

181 (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual,
182 partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit
183 corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend
184 funds therefor as may be available from any nonminimum program
185 sources. The school board of the school district desiring to
186 lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need
187 exists for a school building and that the school district cannot
188 provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate
189 share of the cost of a school building required to meet the
190 present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board
191 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks
192 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district
193 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less
194 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school
195 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If
196 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting
197 as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution



198 spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If
199 at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less
200 than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is
201 less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved
202 shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election
203 be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later
204 than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an
205 election to be held within such school district upon the question
206 of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such
207 election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be
208 given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the
209 issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof
210 shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths
211 (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted
212 in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school
213 building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school
214 building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty
215 (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the
216 amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board
217 after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the
218 current fair market value of the lease as determined by the
219 averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general
220 appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school
221 building" as used in this paragraph (v) (i) shall be construed to
222 mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in



223 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the
224 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment
225 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities,
226 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and
227 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v) (i)
228 may include a lease-purchase contract;

229 (ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose
230 to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the
231 school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall
232 be binding on any such school district unless the question of
233 leasing a school building is approved in each participating school
234 district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph
235 (v) (i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v) (i) regarding the
236 term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school
237 boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract
238 executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees
239 shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid
240 by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of
241 occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as
242 stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees
243 under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of
244 lease rental paid by each;

245 (w) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated
246 employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel



247 deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the
248 superintendent of schools;

249 (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of
250 such legal counsel as deemed necessary;

251 (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board
252 of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other
253 motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification
254 required by law;

255 (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute
256 teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment
257 and compensation of such substitute teachers;

258 (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real
259 property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with
260 the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school
261 building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real
262 property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the
263 school board shall not purchase the property for an amount
264 exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by
265 the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by
266 certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.
267 If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such
268 real property in connection with any such project, the board shall
269 have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by
270 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,
271 Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of



272 eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.
273 Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to
274 grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section
275 land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon
276 adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial
277 benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the
278 exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent
279 appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash
280 payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land
281 under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to
282 be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land
283 which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any
284 such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school
285 district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected
286 by the easement;

287 (bb) To charge reasonable fees related to the
288 educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in
289 Section 37-7-335;

290 (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State
291 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use
292 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section
293 37-1-13;

294 (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other
295 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities
296 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school



297 board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources
298 for providing services to the public;

299 (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees
300 of the district;

301 (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of
302 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be
303 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the
304 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper
305 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a
306 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of
307 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall
308 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of
309 the textbooks;

310 (gg) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of
311 the school district that the local school board, in its
312 discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or
313 extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:

314 (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities
315 shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as
316 are other activity funds under this section; and

317 (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or
318 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the
319 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for
320 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall
321 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the



322 proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the
323 student activity fund;

324 (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and
325 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or
326 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment
327 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted
328 by the school board;

329 (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an
330 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for
331 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band
332 instruments and uniforms;

333 (jj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising
334 activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt
335 charitable organization;

336 (kk) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably
337 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;

338 (ll) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts
339 organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide
340 performances or other services for the students of the school
341 district;

342 (mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds,
343 or any other available funds that are expressly designated and
344 authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses,
345 salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local
346 school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered



347 part of the local supplement as defined in Section 37-151-5(o),
348 nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement
349 paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section
350 37-19-7(1). Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds or any
351 other state funds may not be used for salary incentives or salary
352 supplements as provided in this paragraph (mm);

353 (nn) To use any available funds, not appropriated or
354 designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the
355 state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who
356 enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the
357 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation
358 of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than
359 that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into
360 the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand
361 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in
362 the course of relocating, including the expense of any
363 professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the
364 move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount
365 authorized for county and municipal employees under Section
366 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or
367 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated
368 with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for
369 moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion
370 by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be
371 construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed



372 employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school
373 district that has executed a contract for employment in order for
374 the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the
375 moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate
376 within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual
377 receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher
378 Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible
379 to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this
380 paragraph;

381 (oo) To use any available funds, not appropriated or
382 designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who
383 interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district
384 for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course
385 of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for
386 county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;

387 (pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to
388 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve
389 school district management and use of resources and identify cost
390 savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,
391 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews
392 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.
393 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and
394 local officials and the public with the following:

395 (i) An assessment of a school district's
396 governance and organizational structure;



397 (ii) An assessment of the school district's
398 financial and personnel management;

399 (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources;

400 (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization,
401 planning and maintenance;

402 (v) An assessment of food services, transportation
403 and safety/security systems;

404 (vi) An assessment of instructional and
405 administrative technology;

406 (vii) A review of the instructional management and
407 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional
408 programs; and

409 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing
410 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to
411 the public;

412 (qq) To enter into agreements with other local school
413 boards for the establishment of an educational service agency
414 (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which
415 the school district is located, as provided in Section 37-7-345;

416 (rr) To implement a financial literacy program for
417 students in Grades * * * six through twelve. * * * Current
418 curriculum for grades six through twelve shall include content on
419 financial literacy education. Each student, during 10th, 11th, or
420 12th grade, shall take and pass a one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit
421 credit course in personal finance in order to earn a high school



422 diploma. The financial literacy program shall include, but is not
423 limited to, instruction in the same areas of personal business and
424 finance as required under Section 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board
425 may coordinate with volunteer teachers from local community
426 organizations, including, but not limited to, the following:
427 United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, United
428 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Junior
429 Achievement, bankers and other nonprofit organizations. * * * In
430 addition to any financial literacy standards administratively
431 required by the Mississippi Department of Education's College- and
432 Career-Readiness course, the financial literacy program for 10th,
433 11th, and 12th graders shall include:

- 434 (i) Decision-making;
- 435 (ii) Earning an income;
- 436 (iii) Saving and spending;
- 437 (iv) Use of credit; and
- 438 (v) Budgeting;

439 The school board shall make best efforts to cover as many of
440 these topics as possible through the curriculum implemented for
441 grades six through nine;

442 (ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,
443 Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to
444 develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for
445 a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social,
446 and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children.



447 The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to
448 fund the voluntary program. Effective with the 2013-2014 school
449 year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under the
450 Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state funds
451 awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching basis;

452 (tt) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of
453 a school district, including, but not limited to, leases
454 (excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land),
455 bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the
456 obligee that the Department of Revenue or any state agency,
457 department or commission created under state law may:

458 (i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the
459 school board) of any monies which such local school board is
460 entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is
461 in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state
462 agency, department or commission created under state law; and

463 (ii) Pay the same over to any financial
464 institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by
465 the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the
466 school district.

467 The school board may make such written agreement to withhold
468 and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written
469 obligation and may include in the written agreement any other
470 terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the
471 school board files a copy of such written agreement with the



472 Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or
473 commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue
474 or any state agency, department or commission created under state
475 law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such
476 agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall
477 continue to pay the same over to such financial institution,
478 trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

479 This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a
480 school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory
481 limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such
482 school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities,
483 and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect
484 a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not
485 be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust
486 land;

487 (uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is
488 competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder
489 as a good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type
490 of good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be
491 accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on
492 similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph
493 (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public
494 school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment
495 of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of



496 investments, including pooled investments, as any other political
497 subdivision, including community hospitals;

498 (vv) To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance
499 or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a
500 partial or other undivided interest in the property, as
501 specifically authorized and provided in Section 37-7-485;

502 (ww) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a
503 contract with private entities for the operation of any and all
504 functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations
505 including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial
506 services, transportation, professional development, achievement
507 and instructional consulting services materials and products,
508 purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,
509 auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,
510 data processing and student records, and other staff services;
511 however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the
512 leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.

513 Local school districts, working through their regional education
514 service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with
515 other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of
516 state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;

517 (xx) To partner with entities, organizations and
518 corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district;

519 (yy) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic
520 Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings;



521 (zz) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood
522 education programs, defined as programs for children less than
523 five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any
524 source of revenue for such early childhood education programs.
525 Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning
526 Collaborative Act of 2013;

527 (aaa) To issue and provide for the use of procurement
528 cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school
529 personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the
530 Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section
531 31-7-9; and

532 (bbb) To conduct an annual comprehensive evaluation of
533 the superintendent of schools consistent with the assessment
534 components of paragraph (pp) of this section and the assessment
535 benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Board Association
536 to evaluate the success the superintendent has attained in meeting
537 district goals and objectives, the superintendent's leadership
538 skill and whether or not the superintendent has established
539 appropriate standards for performance, is monitoring success and
540 is using data for improvement.

541 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
542 and after July 1, 2024.

