

By: Senator(s) DeBar, Norwood, Brumfield

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2684

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO AID SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN  
 3 CREATING TECHNOLOGY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLANS; TO REQUIRE THE  
 4 DEPARTMENT TO PERIODICALLY CONDUCT SURVEYS ON TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS;  
 5 TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-137, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE  
 6 THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE TO HELP DISTRICT NUTRITION  
 7 PROGRAMS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-41-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 8 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE FOR  
 9 DISTRICTS TO USE IN ASSESSING AND OPTIMIZING BUS ROUTES WITH THE  
 10 GOAL OF IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND REDUCING COSTS; AND  
 11 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 14 amended as follows:

15 37-3-5. (1) The State Department of Education is hereby  
 16 charged with the execution of all laws relating to the  
 17 administrative, supervisory and consultative services to the  
 18 public schools and agricultural high schools of the school  
 19 districts throughout the State of Mississippi. The State  
 20 Department of Education is also authorized to grant property to  
 21 public school districts and agricultural high schools of the State  
 22 of Mississippi.



23           Subject to the direction of the State Board of Education as  
24 provided by law, the administration, management and control of the  
25 department is hereby vested in the State Superintendent of Public  
26 Education, who shall be directly responsible for the rightful  
27 functioning thereof.

28           (2) The Department of Education shall aid school districts  
29 in creating technology and disaster recovery plans. The  
30 department shall develop a plan template and provide guidance  
31 documents for technology staff to use when developing these plans.

32           (3) In order for the Department of Education to better  
33 understand the resources and support needed to assist districts in  
34 improving their technology programs, the department shall conduct  
35 the following surveys at least every two (2) years:

36           (a) A detailed technology survey for district  
37 technology leaders; and

38           (b) A detailed survey for teaching staff regarding  
39 technology use in the classroom, including analyzing the  
40 effectiveness of the Equity in Distance Learning Act.

41           **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-137, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
42 amended as follows:

43           37-13-137. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt  
44 regulations as provided in this section not later than March 1,  
45 2008, which shall be effective for compliance by school districts  
46 beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, for the Child Nutrition  
47 School Breakfast and Lunch Programs that are not in conflict with



48 the regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture  
49 (USDA). The regulations shall take into account the most recent  
50 and advanced scientific principles regarding good human health and  
51 fitness, and the effect of the regulations must be that the good  
52 health, well-being and fitness of Mississippi school children  
53 shall be advanced. The regulations shall include, but not be  
54 limited to, the following areas:

55 (a) Healthy food and beverage choices;

56 (b) Healthy food preparation;

57 (c) Marketing of healthy food choices to students and  
58 staff;

59 (d) Food preparation ingredients and products;

60 (e) Minimum and maximum time allotment for students and  
61 staff lunch and breakfast periods;

62 (f) The availability of food items during the lunch and  
63 breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and  
64 Lunch Programs; and

65 (g) Methods to increase participation in the Child  
66 Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

67 (2) The Office of Healthy Schools of the State Department of  
68 Education shall provide comprehensive training for  
69 superintendents, business managers, food service directors and  
70 food service managers of a local school district, or the designees  
71 appointed by those individuals for training purposes, as required  
72 by the department on marketing healthy foods, creating a healthy



73 cafeteria environment, effective and efficient food service  
74 operations, the standards and expectations of food service staff,  
75 and other topics as identified by the department. The department  
76 may determine the time and location of the trainings and the  
77 frequency with which they are held. Persons employed by a local  
78 school district having the certification as a Food Service  
79 Administrator III or IV shall be exempt from the training  
80 requirements of this subsection.

81 (3) Local school districts may adopt rules and regulations  
82 that may be more stringent but not in conflict with those adopted  
83 by the State Board of Education under this section.

84 (4) The Department of Education shall develop guidance to  
85 help district nutrition programs improve their meals per labor  
86 hour, to ensure efficiency and productivity in food service in  
87 schools. The department shall develop a standardized guide to  
88 assist districts with strategies to increase their breakfast  
89 participation rates.

90 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-41-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
91 amended as follows:

92 37-41-13. (1) All routes shall be laid out so as to place  
93 all pupils entitled to transportation within a reasonable distance  
94 of same. No child entitled to transportation shall be required to  
95 walk a greater distance than one mile to reach the vehicle of  
96 transportation in the morning or to reach his home in the  
97 afternoon.



98           (2) The Department of Education shall develop guidance for  
99           districts to use in assessing and optimizing bus routes with the  
100           goal of improving transportation services and reducing costs.

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

