

**Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1823**

**TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:**

**THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 1**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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.....\$       154,241,578.00.

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 Mississippi Adequate Education Program.....  
28 .....\$ 2,701,338,794.00.

29 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
30 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,957,298,963.00.

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

37 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
38 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,  
39 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
40 Division.....\$ 2,011,385,678.00.

41 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
42 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education  
43 Division of the State Department of Education.....  
44 .....\$ 22,707,865.00.

45 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
46 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Adequate Education  
47 Program.....\$ 245,112,197.00.

48 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED

49 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,279,205,740.00.

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

58 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the  
59 following sums, or so much of those sums as may be necessary, are  
60 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of  
61 the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and  
62 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

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

66	Literacy Initiative and Assessment.....	\$	6,805,774.00
67	Educable Child.....	\$	7,000,000.00
68	Grants to school districts for		
69	capital facilities and buses.....	\$	16,000,000.00
70	Instructional materials.....	\$	25,000,000.00
71	Students with Special Needs.....	\$	1,800,000.00
72	Implementing Performance-Based Data		
73	Collection and Accreditation		
74	Model.....	\$	274,937.00

75	Testing.....	\$	6,125,670.00
76	Mississippi School for Math and		
77	Science.....	\$	725,000.00
78	Mississippi School for Fine Arts. ....	\$	777,632.00
79	Early Learning Collaboratives.....	\$	16,210,526.00
80	Other Early Learning Programs.....	\$	20,000,000.00
81	Early Learning Coaches.....	\$	3,251,533.00
82	Math Coaches.....	\$	5,000,000.00
83	WorkKeys.....	\$	1,000,000.00
84	Advanced Placement, Dual Credits,		
85	International Baccalaureate,		
86	Cambridge Diploma Endorsements.....	\$	300,000.00
87	Vocational Technical Grants.....	\$	1,000,000.00
88	Mississippi School for the Deaf		
89	and Blind.....	\$	1,407,037.00
90	TOTAL.....	\$	112,678,109.00

91           (b) To the State Department of Education to defray the  
92 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division.....  
93 .....\$ 6,637,258.00.

94           (c) To the State Department of Education to provide  
95 funding for the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.....  
96 .....\$ 245,112,197.00.

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

101 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

102 Permanent: 319

103 Time-Limited: 124

104 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
105 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
106 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds  
107 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
108 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
109 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal  
110 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall  
111 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency  
112 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the  
113 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to  
114 the personal services amount must be approved by the State  
115 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation  
116 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be  
117 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate  
118 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services  
119 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved  
120 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active  
121 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's  
122 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are  
123 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,  
124 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
125 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board  
126 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any

127 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board  
128 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in  
129 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the  
130 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the  
131 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the  
132 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
133 Board.

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

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

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

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

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

	FY2025
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
171 Special Education	
172 Number of Special Education Teachers (FTE)	5,963
173 Number of Gifted Education Teachers	730
174 Percent Increase of Children with	
175 Disabilities in General Education Early	
176 Childhood Programs while Decreasing the	
177 Percent in Self-Contained Special	

178	Education Early Childhood Classrooms	76.00
179	General Administration	
180	Total Dollars Spent on General	
181	Administration	19,250,220.00
182	Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
183	Administration	15.70
184	Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
185	All Stakeholders	100.00
186	Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
187	Public and School Districts to Access	
188	Data to Make Decisions	100.00
189	Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
190	Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
191	Number of Research Results Published to	
192	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
193	Teacher Effectiveness	9
194	Graduation & Career Readiness	
195	Percent Increase of Students Graduating	
196	from High School Ready for College or	
197	Career in Each Subgroup	100.00
198	Early Childhood Education	
199	Percent Increase of Kindergarten	
200	Students Achieving End-Of-Year Target	
201	Score on Kindergarten Readiness	
202	Post-Test	69.74
203	Percent Increase of Early Learning	



204	Collaborative Sites Meeting Required	
205	Rate of Readiness	95.95
206	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
207	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	8,778
208	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
209	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
210	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
211	That Are High Poverty	31.00
212	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
213	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
214	That Are High Minority	35.00
215	Percent Increase of Districts Reporting	
216	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
217	for Teachers and Leaders	96.00
218	Percent Increase of Teacher Candidates	
219	Passing Licensure Exams on the First	
220	Attempt	45.00
221	Increase the Number of Licensed, Diverse	
222	Teachers and Leaders	35.00
223	Elementary Education	
224	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
225	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
226	First Administration in Each Subgroup	80.00
227	Secondary Education	
228	Increase the Number of Students	
229	Participating in and Passing Advanced	

230	Placement (AP), International	
231	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
232	in Each Subgroup	37.00
233	Percent Increase of Students Ready for	
234	College as Measured by Meeting ACT	
235	Benchmarks in Each Content Area (Public	
236	School Class Data, Grade 11)	11.00
237	Assessment & Development	
238	Increase the Percent of Students	
239	Proficient (Levels 4-5) on Statewide	
240	Assessments (Grades 3-8 & High School	
241	Composite) in Each Subgroup	53.00
242	Decrease the Percent of Students Scoring	
243	Levels 1-3 on Statewide Assessments in	
244	Each Subgroup	47.00
245	Increase Percent of Pre-Kindergarten	
246	Students in Public Schools Attaining	
247	Kindergarten Readiness on the Pre-K	
248	End-Of-Year Assessment	72.00
249	School Performance	
250	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	85.00
251	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	85.00
252	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
253	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
254	Subgroup	70.00
255	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	

256	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
257	Subgroup	75.00
258	Percent of Students Participating in	
259	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	60.00
260	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
261	in Each Subgroup	98.00
262	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
263	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
264	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
265	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	80.00
266	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
267	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	
268	Increasing the Number of Points within a	
269	Letter Grade	80.00
270	Increase the Growth of Districts of	
271	Transformation by Improving the Letter	
272	Grade and/or Increasing the Number of	
273	Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
274	Increase the Growth of Schools Under	
275	Districts of Transformation by Improving	
276	the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
277	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
278	Decrease the Number of High Schools	
279	Rated D or F	40.00
280	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
281	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	

282 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget  
283 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

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

292       **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in  
293 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from  
294 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement  
295 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of  
296 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for  
297 the School for Math and Science.

298       **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of  
299 this act, the following positions are authorized for the  
300 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State  
301 Department of Education:

302       AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

303           Permanent:                   48

304           Time-Limited:               5

305       With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's  
306 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal  
307 Services for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2025 funds

308 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are  
309 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2025 budget by the Mississippi  
310 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal  
311 services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall  
312 publish. In accordance with applicable laws, if an agency  
313 determines that its personal services amount is insufficient, the  
314 agency must contact the State Personnel Board. Any adjustment to  
315 the personal services amount must be approved by the State  
316 Personnel Director and the State Fiscal Officer after consultation  
317 with the Legislative Budget Office. Any adjustment shall be  
318 reported to the Legislative Budget Office and the House and Senate  
319 Appropriations Chairmen. The agency's personal services  
320 appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved  
321 vacancies for Fiscal Year 2025 that may not be utilized for active  
322 Fiscal Year 2024 headcount. It shall be the agency's  
323 responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are  
324 used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes,  
325 in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing  
326 salaries for current employees. If the State Personnel Board  
327 determines that an agency has used provided vacancy funds for any  
328 of the mechanisms previously listed, the State Personnel Board  
329 shall not process any additional salary actions for the agency in  
330 the current fiscal year, except for new hires determined by the  
331 State Personnel Board to be essential for the agency. It is the  
332 Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the

333 minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel  
334 Board.

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

344         Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with  
345 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or  
346 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State  
347 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written  
348 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The  
349 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written  
350 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions  
351 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the  
352 appropriated level.

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

357         None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in  
358 violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A

359 relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as  
360 interpreted by the Office of the State Auditor.

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

367       **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
368 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State  
369 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in  
370 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars  
371 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation  
372 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase  
373 soil conservation equipment.

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

378       **SECTION 13.** The State Department of Education shall transfer  
379 the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall  
380 assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in  
381 accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any  
382 improper expenditure, for the following:

383	Detention Centers.....	\$	2,975,000.00.
384	Dyslexia Program.....	\$	225,000.00.

385	Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$ 1,100,000.00.
386	Magnolia Speech School.....	\$ 1,000,000.00.
387	Principal Corp.....	\$ 200,000.00.
388	Sight Savers.....	\$ 375,000.00.
389	Teach for America.....	\$ 1,250,000.00.
390	Teacher Corp.....	\$ 200,000.00.
391	Vision Screening Research.....	\$ 225,000.00.
392	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$ 200,000,00.
393	Algebra Nation.....	\$ 1,100,000.00.
394	Save the Children.....	\$ 75,000.00.
395	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$ 212,500.00.
396	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$ 75,000.00.
397	JumpStart Act.....	\$ 250,000.00.
398	Mastery Prep.....	\$ 200,000.00.
399	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$ 40,000.00.
400	TOTAL.....	\$ 9,702,500.00.

401       **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of  
402 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section  
403 4(a), Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) is included for the  
404 Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant opportunities  
405 for Other Early Learning Programs through public schools including  
406 other public school preschool programs not participating in Early  
407 Learning Collaboratives.

408       **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount  
409 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars  
410 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for



411 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic  
412 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi  
413 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and  
414 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.  
415 All programs must meet Mississippi Science Standards and/or  
416 College and Career Standards.

417       Of the funds appropriated in this section, an amount not to  
418 exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be distributed to  
419 the Mississippi State University Center for Cyber Education and  
420 used for computer science programs development and teacher  
421 training for elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools  
422 for the purpose of developing K-12 computer science curricula,  
423 including both academic and career and technical education  
424 programs, developing and delivering teacher training, and working  
425 with the State Board of Education and Institutions of Higher  
426 Learning in the state to develop teacher preparation programs for  
427 computer science endorsements. All programs must meet the 2018  
428 Mississippi Computer Science Standards and/or Mississippi College  
429 and Career Standards.

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

435       **SECTION 17.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum  
436 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),

437 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the  
438 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the  
439 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution  
440 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school  
441 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of  
442 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the  
443 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the  
444 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal  
445 Year 1985.

446         **SECTION 18.** Of the funds provided in this act for the  
447 purpose of funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program as  
448 determined under Section 37-151-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, the  
449 base student cost in Fiscal Year 2025 shall be Seven Thousand Four  
450 Hundred Twenty-one Dollars and Thirty-eight Cents (\$7,421.38).

451         **SECTION 19.** It is the intention of the Legislature, that as  
452 a condition for receiving the funds appropriated in Sections 1(d)  
453 and 2(c), ninety percent (90%) of state contributions to the  
454 adequate education program must be spent on teacher salaries,  
455 classroom resources, add-on program cost and expenses other than  
456 salaries for superintendents, assistant superintendents,  
457 principals and assistant principals, or equivalent heads of  
458 districts or charter schools.

459         **SECTION 20.** With the funds provided in this act, it is the  
460 intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and  
461 academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the

462 Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual  
463 increment.

464         **SECTION 21.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
465 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and  
466 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds  
467 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the  
468 same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year  
469 2024. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the  
470 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to the  
471 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail  
472 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the  
473 Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process for each agency and  
474 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

475         **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) to the  
476 State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-three Million  
477 Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$23,080,000.00) shall be used for  
478 National Board Certification. Of this amount, Seven Hundred  
479 Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be used for the World Class  
480 Teacher Program providing instruction and assistance to teachers  
481 seeking National Board Certification.

482         **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and  
483 Section 4(a) not less than Fifteen Million Fifty-eight Thousand  
484 Dollars (\$15,058,000.00) shall be used for the Educable Child  
485 Program. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State  
486 Board of Education shall allocate funding for the Educable Child  
487 Program based upon a recalculated formula in a manner to include

488 only those billable days funded through appropriation of state  
489 funds and not District funds. It is the intent of the Legislature  
490 that the Educable Child funds shall be exempt from budget cuts  
491 made to the Department of Education by the Legislature and/or the  
492 Office of the Governor.

493       **SECTION 24.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and  
494 Section 4(a), not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00)  
495 shall be used for the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program.  
496 It is the intent of the Legislature that the Education Scholarship  
497 Account (ESA) funds shall not be reduced by the State Department  
498 of Education and/or the Office of the Governor.

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

507       **SECTION 26.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
508 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
509 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
510 stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price,  
511 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
512 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to

513 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
514 made without competitive bids.

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

520         **SECTION 28.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the  
521 intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand  
522 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary  
523 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The  
524 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is  
525 provided from the Department of Health.

526         **SECTION 29.** The State Department of Education shall contract  
527 with a Certified Public Accountant to calculate components of the  
528 Mississippi Adequate Education Program to include the base student  
529 cost, school district allocations, total program cost, add-on  
530 programs, and any other required components of Section 37-151-7,  
531 Mississippi Code of 1972. The contractor shall be responsible for  
532 calculating the estimates of these components due to the  
533 Legislative Budget Office and the Governor by August 1 and the  
534 final estimates due to the Legislative Budget Office and the  
535 Governor no later than January 2. A report detailing the funding  
536 of this contract shall be submitted by the State Department of  
537 Education to the Legislature no later than January 30, 2025.

538           **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
539 State Board of Education shall charge a fee for room and board for  
540 students who enroll in the Mississippi School for Mathematics and  
541 Science and the Mississippi School of Arts. Such fees will be  
542 waived for any student enrolled in the State Children's Health  
543 Insurance Program. The amount of such fees shall be Five Hundred  
544 Dollars (\$500.00) for each semester.

545           **SECTION 31.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each  
546 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under  
547 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the  
548 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a  
549 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

550           **SECTION 32.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
551 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or  
552 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars  
553 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of  
554 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency  
555 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code  
556 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June  
557 30, 2025. The school districts receiving these loans shall repay  
558 the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the loan on  
559 or before June 30, 2025.

560           **SECTION 33.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven  
561 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the  
562 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2024.

563           **SECTION 34.** Any school district receiving funds through Save  
564 the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local  
565 funds for implementation of the program.

566           **SECTION 35.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two  
567 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi  
568 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant  
569 program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%)  
570 may be used for training and administrative costs related to  
571 oversight and auditing of the program.

572           **SECTION 36.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and  
573 Section 2(a), Twenty-four Million Dollars (\$24,000,000.00) is  
574 provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The  
575 funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in  
576 Fiscal Year 2025 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five  
577 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and  
578 no less than One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00)  
579 per student in a half-day program. Funds must be matched as  
580 provided by Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972.

581           **SECTION 37.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and  
582 Section 4(a), Fifteen Million Ninety-four Thousand Five Hundred  
583 Dollars (\$15,094,500.00) shall be used for the Literacy Initiative  
584 and Assessment and monitoring and evaluating the adoption and  
585 implementation of high-quality instructional materials that have  
586 been reviewed through the approved state process and distributed  
587 through regional textbook depository as outlined in Section  
588 37-43-23, Mississippi Code of 1972.

589           **SECTION 38.** Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is  
590 provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion  
591 of the state accountability model.

592           **SECTION 39.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two  
593 Million Seven Hundred Fifty-three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-two  
594 Dollars (\$2,753,482.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School  
595 of the Arts and Four Million Thirty-seven Thousand Three Hundred  
596 Twenty Dollars (\$4,037,320.00) shall be used for the Mississippi  
597 School for Mathematics and Science. It is the intention of the  
598 Legislature that of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) for the  
599 Mississippi School of the Arts, One Million Three Hundred  
600 Seventy-six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-one Dollars  
601 (\$1,376,741.00) shall be paid to the school no later than July 10,  
602 2024, and One Million Three Hundred Seventy-six Thousand Seven  
603 Hundred Forty-one Dollars (\$1,376,741.00) shall be paid no later  
604 than January 10, 2025. All funds appropriated from Section 4(a)  
605 for the Mississippi School of the Arts shall be paid to the school  
606 each month within ten (10) working days after such amount was  
607 received by the Department of Education. It is the intention of  
608 the Legislature that the State Board of Education shall not reduce  
609 the appropriated amounts provided in this act for the Mississippi  
610 School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and  
611 Science.

612           **SECTION 40.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) and  
613 Section 2(b), Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is  
614 provided for career and technical grants to schools for qualified



615 students as authorized by Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of  
616 1972.

617         **SECTION 41.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, the  
618 following amounts shall be available to the Schools for the Blind  
619 and Deaf: Ten Million Five Hundred Thirty-three Thousand Five  
620 Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$10,533,517.00) from Section 1(a), One  
621 Million Four Hundred Seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars  
622 (\$1,407,037.00) from Section 4(a), and Two Million Three Hundred  
623 Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$2,309,725.00)  
624 from Section 2(a).

625         **SECTION 42.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount  
626 not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Three  
627 Hundred One Dollars (\$4,171,301.00) is authorized to fully fund  
628 the contract between the Department of Education and the Research  
629 & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career  
630 and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career  
631 and technical assessments.

632         **SECTION 43.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2(a) to the  
633 State Board of Education, Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00)  
634 is provided for the expenditure of funds from the Educational  
635 Facilities Revolving Loan Fund, which was created in Section  
636 37-47-24, Mississippi Code of 1972. These funds are provided for  
637 the purpose of improving educational facilities in the State of  
638 Mississippi by assisting public schools in procuring funds for  
639 making certain capital improvements.

640           **SECTION 44.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) to the  
641 State Board of Education, Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Nine  
642 Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars (\$562,999.00) is provided for  
643 secondary career and technical education instructors teaching at  
644 post-secondary institutions.

645           **SECTION 45.** In addition to all other funds appropriated  
646 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,  
647 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund  
648 not otherwise appropriated for the purpose of defraying the  
649 expenses of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational  
650 expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending  
651 June 30, 2025.....\$ 900,000.00.

652           **SECTION 46.** In addition to all other funds appropriated  
653 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,  
654 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special fund in the  
655 State Treasury to the credit of the Charter School Authorizer  
656 Board for operational expenses for the fiscal year beginning July  
657 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 500,000.00.

658           **SECTION 47.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b), One  
659 Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two  
660 Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and  
661 Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of  
662 Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department  
663 of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for  
664 these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to  
665 defray administrative costs.

666           **SECTION 48.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall  
667 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry  
668 certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that  
669 will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative  
670 Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2025.

671           **SECTION 49.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
672 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education  
673 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi  
674 Department of Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the  
675 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House  
676 Bill No. 1613, 2023 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning  
677 July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 12,915,973.00.

678           This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing  
679 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

- 680           a. Instructional Materials.....\$ 2,540,973.00.
- 681           b. Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 3,000,000.00.
- 682           c. Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 7,375,000.00.

683           Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
684 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
685 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
686 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
687 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
688 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

689           **SECTION 50.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each  
690 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year  
691 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),

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

694         **SECTION 51.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), an  
695 amount not to exceed Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) shall  
696 be allocated for the purpose of providing funds to each public  
697 school district in the state as prescribed in the Minimum Salary  
698 Schedules in Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the  
699 2024-2025 school year, and school years thereafter.

700         **SECTION 52.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), an  
701 amount not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) is  
702 provided to the State Department of Education for the purpose of  
703 examining the current education funding formula and recommending  
704 revisions or a replacement to the current education funding  
705 formula to the Senate and House Education Chairmen by October 1,  
706 2024, for consideration in the 2025 Legislative Session.

707         **SECTION 53.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid  
708 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or  
709 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State  
710 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his  
711 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or  
712 officers in the manner provided by law.

713         **SECTION 54.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
714 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after  
715 June 30, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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.

SS15\HB1823A.J

Amanda White  
Secretary of the Senate