

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 166

1       AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CONDUCT MANDATORY  
2 PARENT MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR; TO  
3 ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENT PARTICIPATION AND PENALTIES FOR  
4 NONCOMPLIANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6       SECTION 1. (1) Each school district shall conduct at least  
7 one (1) mandatory parent meeting no less than thirty (30) calendar  
8 days prior to the commencement of each school year. The meeting  
9 shall provide an overview of academic goals, policies, safety  
10 procedures and other critical information pertaining to the  
11 upcoming school year.

12       (2) Each school district shall document the attendance of  
13 parents or legal guardians at the meeting. Documentation shall  
14 include a signature from the attending parent or legal guardian,  
15 either in person or electronically when attending via  
16 videoconference.

17       (3) School districts shall provide at least one (1) make-up  
18 meeting opportunity for parents unable to attend the initial  
19 meeting. Make-up meetings may be conducted in person, via



20 videoconference, or through other appropriate means as determined  
21 by the school district.

22 (4) School districts must offer an option for parents to  
23 participate via videoconferencing platforms such as Microsoft  
24 Teams, Zoom or other comparable videoconferencing technology.  
25 Attendance through videoconference shall be documented using  
26 electronic verification methods.

27 **SECTION 2.** (1) (a) A parent or legal guardian who fails to  
28 attend either the mandatory meeting or the make-up meeting shall  
29 be assessed a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

30 (b) School districts shall notify parents in writing of  
31 the penalty and provide instructions for payment.

32 (2) (a) Parents who demonstrate legitimate hardship,  
33 including but not limited to medical emergencies, shall be exempt  
34 from the penalty upon submission of appropriate documentation.  
35 Each school district shall establish an appeals process to review  
36 and resolve disputes regarding noncompliance.

37 **SECTION 3.** (1) Each school district shall adopt rules and  
38 regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of this act,  
39 including the methods for collecting fines.

40 (2) Fines collected under this act shall be deposited into a  
41 designated fund within the school district to support parental  
42 engagement programs.

43 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
44 and after July 1, 2025.

