

By: Representative Grady

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1439

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY DASHBOARD FOR
2 MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND PROVIDE
3 PARENTS WITH CRITICAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL
4 DISTRICTS TO PUBLISH THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY DASHBOARD BEGINNING
5 WITH THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR; TO SPECIFY THE TIMELINE
6 BY WHICH THE INITIAL AND SUBSEQUENT UPDATES TO THE DASHBOARD ARE
7 REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED; TO GRANT THE DEPARTMENT A ONE-YEAR
8 PERIOD TO IDENTIFY ANY RELEVANT DATA NOT CURRENTLY COLLECTED TO
9 DETERMINE WHAT SAID DATA IS AND INCLUDE IT IN THE DASHBOARD
10 BEGINNING WITH THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR; TO REQUIRE THE
11 INFORMATION IN THE DASHBOARD TO BE COMPILED INTO AN EASILY
12 ACCESSIBLE, USER-FRIENDLY SINGLE-PAGE GRAPHIC AND PUBLISHED ON THE
13 MAIN PAGE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S AND THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE;
14 TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ISSUE GUIDANCE AND
15 THE STANDARDIZED DASHBOARD TEMPLATE TO ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY
16 AUGUST 1, 2025; TO REQUIRE THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY DASHBOARD TO
17 BE ALIGNED WITH THE STATE'S PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCREDITATION SYSTEM
18 AND PRESCRIBE THE MINIMUM DATA METRICS TO BE INCLUDED; TO AMEND
19 SECTIONS 37-17-6 AND 37-17-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
20 CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

22 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "Mississippi
23 School Accountability Dashboard Act."

24 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature finds that providing parents,
25 educators and communities with clear, comprehensive and accessible
26 school performance information enhances transparency, fosters
27 accountability and supports student success. Mississippi's



performance-based accreditation system offers the foundation for reporting this data.

SECTION 3. (1) (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 academic school year, all school districts shall publish their initial School Accountability Dashboards by September 30, 2025.

Subsequently, districts shall provide an updated dashboard within three (3) weeks of receiving their annual district accountability rating as published by the State Department of Education in the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card, and annually thereafter subject to the three-week grace period of publication of the Mississippi Succeeds Report Card.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), the data required under Section 4 of this act to be reported in the dashboard shall be compiled into an easily accessible, user-friendly single-page graphic and published on the main page of the school district's and in a centralized database on the department's website. Additional data included on a district's accountability dashboard may consist of measures and statistics the local school board believes to be relevant to the overall performance of schools in that school district, which shall be clearly distinguished from statutorily required reporting metrics.

The department shall be granted a one-year grace period to identify any relevant statistical data that is not currently collected to be subsequently in all dashboard reports beginning with the published dashboards for the 2026-2027 school year.



(2) The State Department of Education shall issue guidance and the standardized dashboard template to all school districts by August 1, 2025.

SECTION 4. (1) The State Department of Education shall develop and provide a standardized template for a School Accountability Dashboard, which shall be aligned with the state's performance-based accreditation system to ensure consistency in reporting by all public schools and districts.

(2) Unless otherwise exempted under Section 3(1)(c) the dashboard shall include, but not be limited to, the following metrics:

- (a) Schoolwide Metrics:
 - (i) School accountability letter grade;
 - (ii) School district accountability letter grade;
 - (iii) Graduation rate;
 - (iv) Grade 8 reading and math proficiency and growth;
 - (v) Grade 3 reading and math proficiency and growth;
 - (vi) Truancy/absenteeism rate;
 - (vii) Dropout rate; and
 - (viii) Student-to-teacher ratio;
- (b) College, Career, and Workforce Readiness Metrics:
 - (i) College placement rate;
 - (ii) Job placement rate;



78 (iii) Military placement rate;
79 (iv) Average ACT and ACT WorkKeys scores; and
80 (v) Specialty class offerings (e.g., advanced
81 placement, career-technical education, dual credit, industry
82 internships); and
83 (c) Teacher and Staffing Metrics:
84 (i) Number of teachers with advanced
85 degrees/certifications;
86 (ii) Number of teachers with industry experience;
87 (iii) Teacher turnover rate; and
88 (iv) Number of long-term substitute teachers
89 utilized.

90 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
91 amended as follows:

92 37-17-6. (1) The State Board of Education, acting through
93 the Commission on School Accreditation, shall establish and
94 implement a permanent performance-based accreditation system, and
95 all noncharter public elementary and secondary schools shall be
96 accredited under this system.

97 (2) School districts shall be required to provide school
98 classroom space that is air-conditioned as a minimum requirement
99 for accreditation.

100 (3) (a) The State Board of Education, acting through the
101 Commission on School Accreditation, shall require that school



districts employ certified school librarians according to the following formula:

Number of Students	Number of Certified
Per School Library	School Librarians
0 - 499 Students	1/2 Full-time Equivalent Certified Librarian
500 or More Students	1 Full-time Certified Librarian

(b) The State Board of Education, however, may increase the number of positions beyond the above requirements.

(c) The assignment of certified school librarians to the particular schools shall be at the discretion of the local school district. No individual shall be employed as a certified school librarian without appropriate training and certification as a school librarian by the State Department of Education.

(d) School librarians in the district shall spend at least fifty percent (50%) of direct work time in a school library and shall devote no more than one-fourth (1/4) of the workday to administrative activities that are library related.

(e) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit any school district from employing more certified school librarians than are provided for in this section.

(f) Any additional millage levied to fund school librarians required for accreditation under this subsection shall be included in the tax increase limitation set forth in Sections



37-57-105 and 37-57-107 and shall not be deemed a new program for purposes of the limitation.

(4) [Deleted]

(5) (a) The State Department of Education, acting through the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation, shall implement a single "A" through "F" school and school district accountability system complying with applicable federal and state requirements in order to reach the following educational goals:

(i) To mobilize resources and supplies to ensure that all students exit third grade reading on grade level;

(ii) To reduce the student dropout rate to ten percent (10%) by 2015; and

(iii) To have sixty percent (60%) of students scoring proficient and advanced on assessments.

(b) The State Department of Education shall combine the state school and school district accountability system with the federal system in order to have a single system.

(c) The State Department of Education shall establish five (5) performance categories ("A," "B," "C," "D" and "F") for the accountability system based on the following criteria:

(i) Student Achievement: the percent of students proficient and advanced on the current state assessments;

(ii) Individual student growth: the percent of students making one (1) year's progress in one (1) year's time on the state assessment, with an emphasis on the progress of the



lowest twenty-five percent (25%) of students in the school or district;

(iii) Four-year graduation rate: the percent of students graduating with a standard high school diploma in four (4) years, as defined by federal regulations;

(iv) The system shall include the federally compliant four-year graduation rate in school and school district accountability system calculations. Graduation rate will apply to high school and school district accountability ratings as a compensatory component. The system shall discontinue the use of the High School Completer Index (HSCI);

(v) The school and school district accountability system shall incorporate a standards-based growth model, in order to support improvement of individual student learning;

(vi) The State Department of Education shall determine feeder patterns of schools that do not earn a school grade because the grades and subjects taught at the school do not have statewide standardized assessments needed to calculate a school grade. Upon determination of the feeder pattern, the department shall notify schools and school districts prior to the release of the school grades. Feeder schools will be assigned the accountability designation of the school to which they provide students;

(vii) Standards for student, school and school district performance will be increased when student proficiency is



at a seventy-five percent (75%) and/or when sixty-five percent (65%) of the schools and/or school districts are earning a grade of "B" or higher, in order to raise the standard on performance after targets are met; and

(viii) The system shall include student performance on the administration of a career-readiness assessment, such as, but not limited to, the ACT WorkKeys Assessment, deemed appropriate by the State Department of Education working in coordination with the Office of Workforce Development.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require a nonpublic school that receives no local, state or federal funds for support to become accredited by the State Board of Education.

(7) The State Board of Education shall create an accreditation audit unit under the Commission on School Accreditation to determine whether schools are complying with accreditation standards.

(8) The State Board of Education shall be specifically authorized and empowered to withhold allocations from the total funding formula funds as provided in Sections 37-151-200 through 37-151-215 to any public school district for failure to timely report student, school personnel and fiscal data necessary to meet state and/or federal requirements.

(9) [Deleted]



(10) The State Board of Education shall establish, for those school districts failing to meet accreditation standards, a program of development to be complied with in order to receive state funds, except as otherwise provided in subsection (15) of this section when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in a school district or as otherwise provided in Section 206, Mississippi Constitution of 1890. The state board, in establishing these standards, shall provide for notice to schools and sufficient time and aid to enable schools to attempt to meet these standards, unless procedures under subsection (15) of this section have been invoked.

(11) The State Board of Education shall be charged with the implementation of the program of development in each applicable school district as follows:

(a) Develop an impairment report for each district failing to meet accreditation standards in conjunction with school district officials;

(b) Notify any applicable school district failing to meet accreditation standards that it is on probation until corrective actions are taken or until the deficiencies have been removed. The local school district shall develop a corrective action plan to improve its deficiencies. For district academic deficiencies, the corrective action plan for each such school district shall be based upon a complete analysis of the following: student test data, student grades, student attendance reports,



student dropout data, existence and other relevant data. The corrective action plan shall describe the specific measures to be taken by the particular school district and school to improve: (i) instruction; (ii) curriculum; (iii) professional development; (iv) personnel and classroom organization; (v) student incentives for performance; (vi) process deficiencies; and (vii) reporting to the local school board, parents and the community. The corrective action plan shall describe the specific individuals responsible for implementing each component of the recommendation and how each will be evaluated. All corrective action plans shall be provided to the State Board of Education as may be required. The decision of the State Board of Education establishing the probationary period of time shall be final;

(c) Offer, during the probationary period, technical assistance to the school district in making corrective actions. Subject to appropriations, the State Department of Education shall provide technical and/or financial assistance to all such school districts in order to implement each measure identified in that district's corrective action plan through professional development and on-site assistance. Each such school district shall apply for and utilize all available federal funding in order to support its corrective action plan in addition to state funds made available under this paragraph;

(d) Assign department personnel or contract, in its discretion, with the institutions of higher learning or other



appropriate private entities with experience in the academic, finance and other operational functions of schools to assist school districts;

(e) Provide for publication of public notice at least one time during the probationary period, in a newspaper published within the jurisdiction of the school district failing to meet accreditation standards, or if no newspaper is published therein, then in a newspaper having a general circulation therein. The publication shall include the following: declaration of school system's status as being on probation; all details relating to the impairment report; and other information as the State Board of Education deems appropriate. Public notices issued under this section shall be subject to Section 13-3-31 and not contrary to other laws regarding newspaper publication.

(12) (a) If the recommendations for corrective action are not taken by the local school district or if the deficiencies are not removed by the end of the probationary period, the Commission on School Accreditation shall conduct a hearing to allow the affected school district to present evidence or other reasons why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. Additionally, if the local school district violates accreditation standards that have been determined by the policies and procedures of the State Board of Education to be a basis for withdrawal of school district's accreditation without a probationary period, the Commission on School Accreditation shall conduct a hearing to allow the affected



276 school district to present evidence or other reasons why its
277 accreditation should not be withdrawn. After its consideration of
278 the results of the hearing, the Commission on School Accreditation
279 shall be authorized, with the approval of the State Board of
280 Education, to withdraw the accreditation of a public school
281 district, and issue a request to the Governor that a state of
282 emergency be declared in that district.

283 (b) (i) If the State Board of Education and the
284 Commission on School Accreditation determine that an extreme
285 emergency situation exists in a school district that jeopardizes
286 the safety, security or educational interests of the children
287 enrolled in the schools in that district and that emergency
288 situation is believed to be related to a serious violation or
289 violations of accreditation standards or state or federal law, the
290 State Board of Education may request the Governor to declare a
291 state of emergency in that school district. For purposes of this
292 paragraph, the declarations of a state of emergency district's
293 impairments are related to a lack of financial may include the
294 school district's serious failure to meet minimum academic
295 standards, as evidenced by a continued pattern of poor student
296 performance, or impairments related to a lack of financial
297 resources.

298 (ii) If the State Board of Education determines
299 that a public school or district in the state which, during each
300 of two (2) consecutive school years or during two (2) of three (3)



301 consecutive school years, receives an "F" designation by the State
302 Board of Education under the accountability rating system or has
303 been persistently failing as defined by the State Board of
304 Education; or if the State Board of Education determines that a
305 public school or district in the state which, during each of four
306 (4) consecutive school years, receives a "D" or "F" designation by
307 the State Board of Education under the accountability rating
308 system or has been persistently failing as defined by the State
309 Board of Education; or if more than fifty percent (50%) of the
310 schools within a school district are designated as Schools-At-Risk
311 in any one (1) year, then the board may place such school or
312 district into a District of Transformation. The State Board of
313 Education shall take over only the number of schools and districts
314 for which it has the capacity to serve. The State Board of
315 Education shall adopt rules and regulations governing any
316 additional requirements for placement into a District of
317 Transformation and the operation thereof. School districts or
318 schools that are eligible to be placed into a District of
319 Transformation due to poor academic performance but are not
320 absorbed due to the capacity of the State Board of Education,
321 shall develop and implement a district improvement plan with
322 prescriptive guidance and support from the Mississippi Department
323 of Education, with the goal of helping the district improve
324 student achievement. Failure of the school board, superintendent
325 and school district staff to implement the plan with fidelity and



participate in the activities provided as support by the department shall result in the school district retaining its eligibility for placement into a District of Transformation.

(iii) If the State Board of Education determined that a school district is impaired with a serious lack of financial resources, the State Board of Education may place the school district into a District of Transformation. If a school district is placed into a District of Transformation for financial reasons, the school district shall be required to reimburse the state for any costs incurred by the state on behalf of the school district.

(c) Whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency in a school district in response to a request made under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, or when the State Board of Education places a school district into a District of Transformation due to poor academic performance or financial reasons, the State Board of Education may take one or more of the following actions:

(i) Declare a state of emergency, under which some or all of state funds can be escrowed except as otherwise provided in Section 206, Constitution of 1890, until the board determines corrective actions are being taken or the deficiencies have been removed, or that the needs of students warrant the release of funds. The funds may be released from escrow for any program which the board determines to have been restored to standard even



though the state of emergency may not as yet be terminated for the district as a whole;

(ii) Override any decision of the local school board or superintendent of education, or both, concerning the management and operation of the school district, or initiate and make decisions concerning the management and operation of the school district;

(iii) Assign an interim superintendent, or in its discretion, contract with a private entity with experience in the academic, finance and other operational functions of schools and school districts, who will have those powers and duties prescribed in subsection (15) of this section;

(iv) Grant transfers to students who attend this school district so that they may attend other accredited schools or districts in a manner that is not in violation of state or federal law;

(v) For states of emergency declared under paragraph (a) only, if the accreditation deficiencies are related to the fact that the school district is too small, with too few resources, to meet the required standards and if another school district is willing to accept those students, abolish that district and assign that territory to another school district or districts. If the school district has proposed a voluntary consolidation with another school district or districts, then if the State Board of Education finds that it is in the best interest



of the pupils of the district for the consolidation to proceed,
the voluntary consolidation shall have priority over any such
assignment of territory by the State Board of Education;

(vi) For actions taken pursuant to paragraph (b)
only, reduce local supplements paid to school district employees,
including, but not limited to, instructional personnel, assistant
teachers and extracurricular activities personnel, if the
district's impairment is related to a lack of financial resources,
but only to an extent that will result in the salaries being
comparable to districts similarly situated, as determined by the
State Board of Education;

(vii) For actions taken pursuant to paragraph (b)
only, the State Board of Education may take any action as
prescribed in Section 37-17-13.

(d) At the time that satisfactory corrective action has
been taken in a school district in which a state of emergency has
been declared, the State Board of Education may request the
Governor to declare that the state of emergency no longer exists
in the district.

(e) The parent or legal guardian of a school-age child
who is enrolled in a school district whose accreditation has been
withdrawn by the Commission on School Accreditation and without
approval of that school district may file a petition in writing to
a school district accredited by the Commission on School
Accreditation for a legal transfer. The school district



401 accredited by the Commission on School Accreditation may grant the
402 transfer according to the procedures of Section 37-15-31(1)(b).
403 In the event the accreditation of the student's home district is
404 restored after a transfer has been approved, the student may
405 continue to attend the transferee school district. The per pupil
406 amount of the total funding formula allotment for the student's
407 home school district shall be transferred monthly to the school
408 district accredited by the Commission on School Accreditation that
409 has granted the transfer of the school-age child.

410 (f) Upon the declaration of a state of emergency for
411 any school district in which the Governor has previously declared
412 a state of emergency, the State Board of Education may either:

413 (i) Place the school district into district
414 transformation, in which the school district shall remain until it
415 has fulfilled all conditions related to district transformation.
416 If the district was assigned an accreditation rating of "D" or "F"
417 when placed into district transformation, the district shall be
418 eligible to return to local control when the school district has
419 attained a "C" rating or higher for three (3) consecutive years;

420 (ii) Abolish the school district and
421 administratively consolidate the school district with one or more
422 existing school districts;

423 (iii) Reduce the size of the district and
424 administratively consolidate parts of the district, as determined
425 by the State Board of Education. However, no school district



which is not in district transformation shall be required to accept additional territory over the objection of the district; or

(iv) Require the school district to develop and implement a district improvement plan with prescriptive guidance and support from the State Department of Education, with the goal of helping the district improve student achievement. Failure of the school board, superintendent and school district staff to implement the plan with fidelity and participate in the activities provided as support by the department shall result in the school district retaining its eligibility for district transformation.

(13) Upon the declaration of a state of emergency in a school district under subsection (12) of this section, or upon the State Board of Education's placement of a school district into a District of Transformation for academic or financial reasons, the Commission on School Accreditation shall be responsible for public notice at least once a week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper published within the jurisdiction of the school district failing to meet accreditation standards, or if no newspaper is published therein, then in a newspaper having a general circulation therein. The size of the notice shall be no smaller than one-fourth (1/4) of a standard newspaper page and shall be printed in bold print. If an interim superintendent has been appointed for the school district, the notice shall begin as follows: "By authority of Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, adopted by the Mississippi Legislature during



the 1991 Regular Session, this school district (name of school district) is hereby placed under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Education acting through its appointed interim superintendent (name of interim superintendent)."

The notice also shall include, in the discretion of the State Board of Education, any or all details relating to the school district's emergency status, including the declaration of a state of emergency in the school district and a description of the district's impairment deficiencies, conditions of any district transformation status and corrective actions recommended and being taken. Public notices issued under this section shall be subject to Section 13-3-31 and not contrary to other laws regarding newspaper publication.

Upon termination of a school district in a District of Transformation, the Commission on School Accreditation shall cause notice to be published in the school district in the same manner provided in this section, to include any or all details relating to the corrective action taken in the school district that resulted in the termination of the state of emergency.

(14) The State Board of Education or the Commission on School Accreditation shall have the authority to require school districts to produce the necessary reports, correspondence, financial statements, and any other documents and information necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section.



Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant any individual, corporation, board or interim superintendent the authority to levy taxes except in accordance with presently existing statutory provisions.

(15) (a) Whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency in a school district in response to a request made under subsection (12) of this section, or when the State Board of Education places a school district into a District of Transformation for academic or financial reasons, the State Board of Education, in its discretion, may assign an interim superintendent to the school district, or in its discretion, may contract with an appropriate private entity with experience in the academic, finance and other operational functions of schools and school districts, who will be responsible for the administration, management and operation of the school district, including, but not limited to, the following activities:

(i) Approving or disapproving all financial obligations of the district, including, but not limited to, the employment, termination, nonrenewal and reassignment of all licensed and nonlicensed personnel, contractual agreements and purchase orders, and approving or disapproving all claim dockets and the issuance of checks; in approving or disapproving employment contracts of superintendents, assistant superintendents or principals, the interim superintendent shall not be required to



comply with the time limitations prescribed in Sections 37-9-15
and 37-9-105;

(ii) Supervising the day-to-day activities of the
district's staff, including reassigning the duties and
responsibilities of personnel in a manner which, in the
determination of the interim superintendent, will best suit the
needs of the district;

(iii) Reviewing the district's total financial
obligations and operations and making recommendations to the
district for cost savings, including, but not limited to,
reassigning the duties and responsibilities of staff;

(iv) Attending all meetings of the district's
school board and administrative staff;

(v) Approving or disapproving all athletic, band
and other extracurricular activities and any matters related to
those activities;

(vi) Maintaining a detailed account of
recommendations made to the district and actions taken in response
to those recommendations;

(vii) Reporting periodically to the State Board of
Education on the progress or lack of progress being made in the
district to improve the district's impairments during the state of
emergency; and

(viii) Appointing a parent advisory committee,
comprised of parents of students in the school district that may



make recommendations to the interim superintendent concerning the administration, management and operation of the school district.

The cost of the salary of the interim superintendent and any other actual and necessary costs related to district transformation status paid by the State Department of Education shall be reimbursed by the local school district from funds other than total funding formula funds as provided in Sections 37-151-200 through 37-151-215. In the alternative, the local school district may pay the cost of the salary of the interim superintendent. The department shall submit an itemized statement to the superintendent of the local school district for reimbursement purposes, and any unpaid balance may be withheld from the district's funding formula funds.

At the time that the Governor, in accordance with the request of the State Board of Education, declares that the state of emergency no longer exists in a school district, the interim superintendent assigned to the district shall remain in place for a period of two (2) years and shall work alongside the newly reconstituted school board. A new superintendent may be hired by the newly reconstituted board after the one (1) year state of emergency no longer exists, but he or she shall serve as deputy to the interim superintendent while the interim superintendent is assigned to the district.

(b) In order to provide loans to school districts under a state of emergency or in district transformation status that



549 have impairments related to a lack of financial resources, the
550 School District Emergency Assistance Fund is created as a special
551 fund in the State Treasury into which monies may be transferred or
552 appropriated by the Legislature from any available public
553 education funds. Funds in the School District Emergency
554 Assistance Fund up to a maximum balance of Three Million Dollars
555 (\$3,000,000.00) annually shall not lapse but shall be available
556 for expenditure in subsequent years subject to approval of the
557 State Board of Education. Any amount in the fund in excess of
558 Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) at the end of the fiscal
559 year shall lapse into the State General Fund or the Education
560 Enhancement Fund, depending on the source of the fund.

561 The State Board of Education may loan monies from the School
562 District Emergency Assistance Fund to a school district that is
563 under a state of emergency or in district transformation status,
564 in those amounts, as determined by the board, that are necessary
565 to correct the district's impairments related to a lack of
566 financial resources. The loans shall be evidenced by an agreement
567 between the school district and the State Board of Education and
568 shall be repayable in principal, without necessity of interest, to
569 the School District Emergency Assistance Fund by the school
570 district from any allowable funds that are available. The total
571 amount loaned to the district shall be due and payable within five
572 (5) years after the impairments related to a lack of financial
573 resources are corrected. If a school district fails to make



574 payments on the loan in accordance with the terms of the agreement
575 between the district and the State Board of Education, the State
576 Department of Education, in accordance with rules and regulations
577 established by the State Board of Education, may withhold that
578 district's total funding formula funds in an amount and manner
579 that will effectuate repayment consistent with the terms of the
580 agreement; the funds withheld by the department shall be deposited
581 into the School District Emergency Assistance Fund.

582 The State Board of Education shall develop a protocol that
583 will outline the performance standards and requisite timeline
584 deemed necessary for extreme emergency measures. If the State
585 Board of Education determines that an extreme emergency exists,
586 simultaneous with the powers exercised in this subsection, it
587 shall take immediate action against all parties responsible for
588 the affected school districts having been determined to be in an
589 extreme emergency. The action shall include, but not be limited
590 to, initiating civil actions to recover funds and criminal actions
591 to account for criminal activity. Any funds recovered by the
592 State Auditor or the State Board of Education from the surety
593 bonds of school officials or from any civil action brought under
594 this subsection shall be applied toward the repayment of any loan
595 made to a school district hereunder.

596 (16) [Deleted]

597 (17) [Deleted]



598 (18) The State Board of Education, acting through the
599 Commission on School Accreditation, shall require each school
600 district to comply with standards established by the State
601 Department of Audit for the verification of fixed assets and the
602 auditing of fixed assets records as a minimum requirement for
603 accreditation.

604 (19) [Deleted]

605 (20) [Deleted]

606 (21) If a local school district is determined as failing and
607 placed into district transformation status for reasons authorized
608 by the provisions of this section, the interim superintendent
609 appointed to the district shall, within forty-five (45) days after
610 being appointed, present a detailed and structured corrective
611 action plan to move the local school district out of district
612 transformation status to the deputy superintendent. A copy of the
613 interim superintendent's corrective action plan shall also be
614 filed with the State Board of Education.

615 (22) The State Board of Education shall integrate the
616 requirements of the School Accountability Dashboard into the
617 existing performance-based accreditation system and ensure
618 compliance by all public schools and districts.

619 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-17-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
620 amended as follows:

621 37-17-8. (1) The State Board of Education, through the
622 Commission on School Accreditation, shall establish criteria for



comprehensive in-service staff development plans. These criteria shall: (a) include, but not be limited to, formula and guidelines for allocating available state funds for in-service training to local school districts; (b) require that a portion of the plans be devoted exclusively for the purpose of providing staff development training for beginning teachers within that local school district and for no other purpose; and (c) require that a portion of the school district's in-service training for administrators and teachers be dedicated to the application and utilization of various disciplinary techniques. The board shall each year make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the amount of funds which shall be appropriated for this purpose.

(2) School districts shall not be required to submit staff development plans to the Commission on School Accreditation for approval. However, any school district accredited at the lowest performance levels, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall include, as a part of any required corrective action plan, provisions to address staff development in accordance with State Board of Education requirements. All school districts, unless specifically exempt from this section, must maintain on file staff development plans as required under this section. The plan shall have been prepared by a district committee appointed by the district superintendent and consisting of teachers, administrators, school board members, and lay people, and it shall have been approved by the district superintendent.



648 (3) In order to insure that teachers are not overburdened
649 with paperwork and written reports, local school districts and
650 the State Board of Education shall take such steps as may be
651 necessary to further the reduction of paperwork requirements on
652 teachers.

653 (4) Districts meeting the highest levels of accreditation
654 standards, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall be
655 exempted from the mandatory provisions of this section relating to
656 staff development plans.

657 (5) The School Accountability Dashboard shall serve as a
658 public reporting tool and shall not impose additional punitive
659 measures based solely on the data reported therein. The State
660 Department of Education shall oversee the accuracy and consistency
661 of dashboard data across districts and provide technical
662 assistance as needed.

663 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
664 and after July 1, 2025.

