

By: Senator(s) DeBar, Sparks, Robinson

To: Education;  
AppropriationsCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2147

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCORPORATE  
2 FINANCIAL LITERACY COMPONENTS WITHIN THE EXISTING CURRICULUM TO BE  
3 TAUGHT IN GRADES 6-8 ON OR BEFORE THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR; TO  
4 REQUIRE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THE STAND-ALONE ONE-HALF CARNEGIE  
5 UNIT PERSONAL FINANCE COURSE OR A FULL CARNEGIE UNIT COURSE WHERE  
6 AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE COURSE STANDARDS CONCERN FINANCIAL  
7 LITERACY AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT; TO ESTABLISH THE "FINANCIAL  
8 LITERACY TRUST FUND" AS A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY 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 ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND; TO  
12 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND CONSUMER FINANCE TO  
13 CONTRIBUTE A PORTION OF THE MONIES GENERATED FROM PENALTIES AND  
14 FEES TO THE FINANCIAL LITERACY TRUST FUND; TO AMEND SECTION  
15 37-7-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM, AND TO SET CERTAIN  
16 TOPICS THAT SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR THE FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM;  
17 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the  
20 State Board of Education shall incorporate financial literacy  
21 components within the existing curriculum offered in grades 6-8.  
22 This section shall apply to all schools accredited by the State  
23 Department of Education, including public charter schools.

24 (2) Beginning with the graduating class of 2031, each  
25 student, during grade 9, 10, 11 or 12, shall take and pass a



26 one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit course in personal finance or a full  
27 Carnegie Unit course where at least one-half (1/2) of the course  
28 standards concern financial literacy in order to earn a high  
29 school diploma.

30 (3) There is established in the State Treasury a special  
31 fund to be known as the "Financial Literacy Trust Fund" to provide  
32 financial literacy education for this program. The fund shall be  
33 administered by the State Board of Education and shall be eligible  
34 to accept monies appropriated by the state or federal government.  
35 No expenditure from the fund shall cause the fund to be in  
36 deficiency at the close of the fiscal year. Unexpended monies  
37 remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall lapse  
38 into the State General Fund. The fund shall be an expendable  
39 trust fund which shall be subject to appropriation.

40 (4) The State Board of Education shall administer the fund  
41 and develop rules and regulations for the administration of the  
42 trust. Every two (2) years, an independent audit of the financial  
43 activities of the trust fund shall be conducted, with the results  
44 being provided to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Education  
45 Committee upon its completion. The State Board of Education may  
46 expend trust fund monies to conduct the independent audit. The  
47 board shall annually report to the Legislature all programmatic  
48 and financial activities and balances of the fund on or before  
49 December 1 of each year.



50       **SECTION 2.** The Department of Banking and Consumer Finance  
51 shall have the authority to contribute a portion of funds  
52 generated from penalties and fees to the Financial Literacy Trust  
53 Fund.

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

56       37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall  
57 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all  
58 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

59           (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district  
60 and to make such division between the high school grades and  
61 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best  
62 interests of the school;

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

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

69           (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing  
70 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary  
71 school improvements;

72           (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the  
73 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school  
74 or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school



property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district;

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

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

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

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



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

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

104           (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not  
105 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board  
106 of Education for their own government and for the government of  
107 the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special  
108 meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

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

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

114           (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of  
115 schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes  
116 on any available funds of the district and to have full control of  
117 the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds  
118 provided for the support and operation of the schools of such  
119 school district whether such funds be derived from state  
120 appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise.  
121 The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to  
122 promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims  
123 and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the



superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;

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

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

(r) To join, in their discretion, any association of school boards and other public school-related organizations, and to pay from local funds other than total funding formula funds, any membership dues;

(s) To expend local school activity funds, or other available school district funds, other than total funding formula funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph.

"Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any school activity, such activity being part of the school program and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether the funds were raised by school employees or received by school employees during school hours or using school facilities, and



149 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over  
150 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall  
151 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of  
152 any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school  
153 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be  
154 beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the  
155 school. For the purposes of this provision, the term  
156 "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the  
157 control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may  
158 only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,  
159 including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in  
160 attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,  
161 conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel  
162 expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local  
163 school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial  
164 to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,  
165 including items which may subsequently become the personal  
166 property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,  
167 book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay  
168 travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school  
169 governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate  
170 rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes  
171 school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing  
172 board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be  
173 maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating



the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the board. The local school governing board shall provide that such school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial reporting for all school activity fund transactions;

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

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

(v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual, partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend funds therefor as may be available from any sources other than total funding formula funds as set by Sections 37-151-200 through 37-151-215. The school board of the school district desiring to lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need exists for a school building and that the school district cannot provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate share of the cost of a school building required to meet the present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board





199 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks  
200 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district  
201 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less  
202 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school  
203 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If  
204 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting  
205 as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution  
206 spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If  
207 at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less  
208 than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is  
209 less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved  
210 shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election  
211 be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later  
212 than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an  
213 election to be held within such school district upon the question  
214 of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such  
215 election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be  
216 given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the  
217 issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof  
218 shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths  
219 (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted  
220 in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school  
221 building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school  
222 building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty  
223 (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the



224 amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board  
225 after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the  
226 current fair market value of the lease as determined by the  
227 averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general  
228 appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school  
229 building" as used in this paragraph (v) (i) shall be construed to  
230 mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in  
231 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the  
232 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment  
233 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities,  
234 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and  
235 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v) (i)  
236 may include a lease-purchase contract;

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



occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of lease rental paid by each;

(w) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the superintendent of schools;

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

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

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

(aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the school board shall not purchase the property for an amount exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by



certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.  
If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such  
real property in connection with any such project, the board shall  
have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by  
condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,  
Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of  
eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.  
Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to  
grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section  
land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon  
adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial  
benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the  
exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent  
appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash  
payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land  
under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to  
be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land  
which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any  
such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school  
district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected  
by the easement;

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



298           (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State  
299 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use  
300 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section  
301 37-1-13;

302           (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other  
303 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities  
304 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school  
305 board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources  
306 for providing services to the public;

307           (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees  
308 of the district;

309           (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of  
310 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be  
311 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the  
312 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper  
313 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a  
314 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of  
315 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall  
316 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of  
317 the textbooks;

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



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

325                   (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or  
326 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the  
327 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for  
328 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall  
329 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the  
330 proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the  
331 student activity fund;

332                   (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and  
333 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or  
334 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment  
335 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted  
336 by the school board;

337                   (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an  
338 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for  
339 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band  
340 instruments and uniforms;

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

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



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

(mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds, or any other available funds that are expressly designated and authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses, salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered part of the local supplement, nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section 37-19-7(1);

(nn) To use any available funds, not appropriated or designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating, including the expense of any professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for county and municipal employees under Section



25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school district that has executed a contract for employment in order for the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this paragraph;

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

(pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve school district management and use of resources and identify cost savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,





396 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews  
397 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.  
398 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and  
399 local officials and the public with the following:

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

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

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

405 (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization,  
406 planning and maintenance;

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

409 (vi) An assessment of instructional and  
410 administrative technology;

411 (vii) A review of the instructional management and  
412 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional  
413 programs; and

414 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing  
415 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to  
416 the public;

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



421 (rr) To \* \* \* incorporate financial literacy components  
422 within the curriculum offered to \* \* \* students in Grades \* \* \*  
423 6-8. Current curriculum for Grades 6-12 shall include content on  
424 financial literacy education. Each student, during Grade 9, 10,  
425 11 or 12, shall take and pass a one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit  
426 course, where at least one-half (1/2) of the course standards  
427 concern financial literacy, in order to earn a high school  
428 diploma. The financial literacy program shall include, but is not  
429 limited to, instruction in the same areas of personal business and  
430 finance as required under Section 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board  
431 may coordinate with volunteer teachers from local community  
432 organizations, including, but not limited to, the following:  
433 United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, United  
434 States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Junior  
435 Achievement, bankers and other nonprofit organizations. \* \* \* In  
436 addition to any financial literacy standards administratively  
437 required by the State Department of Education's College- and  
438 Career-Readiness course, the financial literacy program for Grades  
439 9, 10, 11 and 12 shall include, but not be limited to:  
440 (i) Decision-making;  
441 (ii) Earning an income;  
442 (iii) Saving and spending;  
443 (iv) Using credit; and  
444 (v) Budgeting.



445           (ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,  
446 Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to  
447 develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for  
448 a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social,  
449 and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children.  
450 The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to  
451 fund the voluntary program. Effective with the 2013-2014 school  
452 year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under the  
453 Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state funds  
454 awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching basis;

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

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

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



470           The school board may make such written agreement to withhold  
471 and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written  
472 obligation and may include in the written agreement any other  
473 terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the  
474 school board files a copy of such written agreement with the  
475 Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or  
476 commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue  
477 or any state agency, department or commission created under state  
478 law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such  
479 agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall  
480 continue to pay the same over to such financial institution,  
481 trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

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

490           (uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is  
491 competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder  
492 as a good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type  
493 of good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be  
494 accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on



495 similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph  
496 (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public  
497 school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment  
498 of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of  
499 investments, including pooled investments, as any other political  
500 subdivision, including community hospitals;

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

505 (ww) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a  
506 contract with private entities for the operation of any and all  
507 functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations  
508 including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial  
509 services, transportation, professional development, achievement  
510 and instructional consulting services materials and products,  
511 purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,  
512 auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,  
513 data processing and student records, and other staff services;  
514 however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the  
515 leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.  
516 Local school districts, working through their regional education  
517 service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with  
518 other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of  
519 state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;



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

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

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

530           (aaa) To issue and provide for the use of procurement  
531 cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school  
532 personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the  
533 Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section  
534 31-7-9; and

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



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

