25/SS36/R444PS

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By: Senator(s) DeBar, Sparks, Robinson, Parker, Simmons (13th), McLendon, McCaughn, Suber, McMahan, Boyd, Butler, Michel

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2147 (As Passed the Senate)

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 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 LITERACY AS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT; TO ESTABLISH THE "FINANCIAL 7 LITERACY TRUST FUND" AS A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY THAT 8 9 SHALL PROVIDE FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION AND BE ADMINISTERED BY 10 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO DEVELOP RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND; TO AMEND 11 12 SECTION 37-7-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM, AND TO SET 13 CERTAIN TOPICS THAT SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR THE FINANCIAL LITERACY 14 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the 16 17 State Board of Education shall incorporate financial literacy components within the existing curriculum offered in grades 6-8. 18 19 This section shall apply to all schools accredited by the State Department of Education, including public charter schools. 20 Beginning with the graduating class of 2031, each 21 22 student, during grade 9, 10, 11 or 12, shall take and pass a 23 one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit course in personal finance or a full 24 Carnegie Unit course where at least one-half (1/2) of the course S. B. No. 2147 ~ OFFICIAL ~ G1/2

- 25 standards concern financial literacy in order to earn a high
- 26 school diploma.
- 27 There is established in the State Treasury a special
- fund to be known as the "Financial Literacy Trust Fund" to provide 28
- 29 financial literacy education for this program. The fund shall be
- 30 administered by the State Board of Education and shall be eligible
- to accept monies appropriated by the state or federal government. 31
- 32 No expenditure from the fund shall cause the fund to be in
- 33 deficiency at the close of the fiscal year. Unexpended monies
- 34 remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall lapse
- 35 into the State General Fund. The fund shall be an expendable
- 36 trust fund which shall be subject to appropriation.
- 37 (4)The State Board of Education shall administer the fund
- and develop rules and regulations for the administration of the 38
- 39 trust. Every two (2) years, an independent audit of the financial
- 40 activities of the trust fund shall be conducted, with the results
- 41 being provided to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Education
- Committee upon its completion. The State Board of Education may 42
- 43 expend trust fund monies to conduct the independent audit.
- 44 board shall annually report to the Legislature all programmatic
- 45 and financial activities and balances of the fund on or before
- 46 December 1 of each year.
- SECTION 2. Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 47
- 48 amended as follows:

- 49 37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall
- 50 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all
- 51 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:
- 52 (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district
- 53 and to make such division between the high school grades and
- 54 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best
- 55 interests of the school;
- 56 (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual
- 57 training and other special subjects into either the elementary or
- 58 high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;
- 59 (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school
- 60 property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the
- 61 school term and during vacation;
- 62 (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing
- 63 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary
- 64 school improvements;
- 65 (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the
- 66 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school
- or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school
- 68 property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from
- 69 school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct
- 70 occurring on property other than school property or other than at
- 71 a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil,
- 72 in the determination of the school superintendent or principal,
- 73 renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the

- 74 educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best
- 75 interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a
- 76 whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials
- 77 of the school district;
- 78 (f) To visit schools in the district, in their
- 79 discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be
- 80 done for the improvement of the school in a general way;
- 81 (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the
- 82 superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the
- 83 proper discipline of the school;
- 84 (h) To exclude from the schools students with what
- 85 appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided,
- 86 however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon
- 87 presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly
- 88 licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free
- 89 from such disease;
- 90 (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the
- 91 State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37;
- 92 (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services
- 93 are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;
- 94 (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and
- 95 grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the
- 96 people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;
- 97 (1) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not
- 98 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board

99	of Education	for the	eir own	governme	nt and	for the	governmen	nt of
100	the schools,	and to	transac	t their	busines	s at rec	gular and	special
101	meetings call	led and	held in	the man	ner pro	vided by	/ law;	

- 102 (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under
 103 their control for such length of time during the year as may be
 104 required;
- 105 (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and 106 the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;
 - (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes on any available funds of the district and to have full control of the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds provided for the support and operation of the schools of such school district whether such funds be derived from state appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise. The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims 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;
- 119 (p) To select all school district personnel in the 120 manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe 121 benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may 122 be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;

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123		(q)	То	provide	athle	etic	programs	and o	other	schoo	ol	
124	activities	and	to	regulate	e the	esta	ablishment	and	opera	ation	of	such
125	programs a	nd ac	ctiv	vities;								

- 126 (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of 127 school boards and other public school-related organizations, and 128 to pay from local funds other than total funding formula funds, 129 any membership dues;
- 130 To expend local school activity funds, or other (s) 131 available school district funds, other than total funding formula 132 funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph. "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials 133 134 in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any 135 school activity, such activity being part of the school program 136 and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public 137 The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds 138 raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a 139 bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether the funds were raised by school employees or received by school 140 141 employees during school hours or using school facilities, and 142 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over 143 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall 144 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school 145 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be 146

beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the

148	school. For the purposes of this provision, the term
149	"organization" shall not include any organization subject to the
150	control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may
151	only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,
152	including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in
153	attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,
154	conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel
155	expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local
156	school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial
157	to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,
158	including items which may subsequently become the personal
159	property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,
160	book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay
161	travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school
162	governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate
163	rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes
164	school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing
165	board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be
166	maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating
167	the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school
168	activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the
169	superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the
170	board. The local school governing board shall provide that such
171	school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit
172	required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education

- 173 shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial
- 174 reporting for all school activity fund transactions;
- 175 (t) To enter into an energy performance contract,
- 176 energy services contract, on a shared-savings, lease or
- 177 lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or
- 178 equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14;
- 179 (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on
- 180 school food service bank accounts;
- (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual,
- 182 partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit
- 183 corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend
- 184 funds therefor as may be available from any sources other than
- 185 total funding formula funds as set by Sections 37-151-200 through
- 186 37-151-215. The school board of the school district desiring to
- 187 lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need
- 188 exists for a school building and that the school district cannot
- 189 provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate
- 190 share of the cost of a school building required to meet the
- 191 present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board
- 192 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks
- 193 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district
- 194 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less
- 195 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school
- 196 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If
- 197 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting

198	as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution
199	spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If
200	at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less
201	than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is
202	less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved
203	shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election
204	be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later
205	than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an
206	election to be held within such school district upon the question
207	of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such
208	election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be
209	given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the
210	issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof
211	shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths
212	(3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted
213	in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school
214	building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school
215	building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty
216	(20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the
217	amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board
218	after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the
219	current fair market value of the lease as determined by the
220	averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general
221	appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school
222	building" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) shall be construed to

224 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the 225 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment 226 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities, 227 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and 228 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) 229 may include a lease-purchase contract; 230 (ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose 231 to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall 232 233 be binding on any such school district unless the question of 234 leasing a school building is approved in each participating school 235 district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph 236 (v)(i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v)(i) regarding the 237 term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school 238 boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract 239 executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees 240 shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid 241 by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of 242 occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as 243 stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees

mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in

To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel 247

under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of

lease rental paid by each;

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248	deemed	necessary	pursuant	to	the	recommendation	of	the
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- 249 superintendent of schools;
- 250 (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of
- 251 such legal counsel as deemed necessary;
- 252 (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board
- 253 of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other
- 254 motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification
- 255 required by law;
- 256 (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute
- 257 teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment
- 258 and compensation of such substitute teachers;
- 259 (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real
- 260 property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with
- 261 the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school
- 262 building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real
- 263 property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the
- 264 school board shall not purchase the property for an amount
- 265 exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by
- 266 the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by
- 267 certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.
- 268 If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such
- 269 real property in connection with any such project, the board shall
- 270 have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by
- 271 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,
- 272 Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of

273 eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.

274 Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to

275 grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section

276 land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon

277 adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial

278 benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the

279 exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent

280 appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash

281 payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land

282 under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to

283 be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land

284 which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any

285 such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school

286 district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected

287 by the easement;

288 (bb) To charge reasonable fees related to the

educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in

290 Section 37-7-335;

291 (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State

292 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use

293 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section

294 37-1-13;

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295 (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other

296 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities

297 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school

298	board,	or	to	allow	more	efficien ⁻	t utilization	of	limited	resources
299	for pro	ovid	ling	servi	ices	to the pul	olic;			

- 300 (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees 301 of the district;
- 302 (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of 303 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be 304 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the 305 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper 306 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a 307 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of 308 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall 309 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of 310 the textbooks;
- 311 (gg) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of 312 the school district that the local school board, in its 313 discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or 314 extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:
- 315 (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities 316 shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as 317 are other activity funds under this section; and
- (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or
 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the
 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for
 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall
 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the

323	proceeds	of	the	sales	or	rentals	shall	be	contributed	to	the
324	student	act:	ivity	y fund	;						

- 325 (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and
 326 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or
 327 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment
 328 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted
 329 by the school board;
- 330 (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an 331 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for 332 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band 333 instruments and uniforms;
- (jj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt charitable organization;
- 337 (kk) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably 338 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;
- 339 (11) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts 340 organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide 341 performances or other services for the students of the school 342 district;
- 343 (mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds, 344 or any other available funds that are expressly designated and 345 authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses, 346 salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local 347 school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered

348	part	of	the	local	supplement,	nor	shal	11	incentives	be con	sider	ed
349	part	of	the	local	supplement	paid	to a	an	individual	teache	r for	the
350	purpo	ses	s of	Section	on 37-19-7(1);						

351 To use any available funds, not appropriated or 352 designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the 353 state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who 354 enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the 355 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation 356 of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than 357 that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into 358 the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand 359 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in 360 the course of relocating, including the expense of any 361 professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the 362 move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount 363 authorized for county and municipal employees under Section 364 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or 365 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated 366 with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for 367 moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion 368 by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be 369 construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed 370 employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school 371 district that has executed a contract for employment in order for the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the 372

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	373	moving expenses.	However,	the	licensed	employee	must	relocate
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- 374 within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual
- 375 receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher
- 376 Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible
- 377 to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this
- 378 paragraph;

- 379 To use any available funds, not appropriated or (00)
- 380 designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who
- 381 interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district
- 382 for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course
- of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for 383
- 384 county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;
- 385 (pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to
- 386 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve
- 387 school district management and use of resources and identify cost
- 388 savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,
- 389 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews
- 390 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.
- 391 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and
- 392 local officials and the public with the following:
- 393 (i) An assessment of a school district's
- 394 governance and organizational structure;
- 395 An assessment of the school district's (ii)
- 396 financial and personnel management;
- 397 An assessment of revenue levels and sources;

398			(iv)	An	assessment	of	facilities	utilization,
300	nlanning	and	mainton	2 n C	.			

- 399 planning and maintenance;
- 400 (v) An assessment of food services, transportation
- 401 and safety/security systems;
- 402 (vi) An assessment of instructional and
- 403 administrative technology;
- 404 (vii) A review of the instructional management and
- 405 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional
- 406 programs; and
- 407 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing
- 408 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to
- 409 the public;
- 410 (qq) To enter into agreements with other local school
- 411 boards for the establishment of an educational service agency
- 412 (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which
- 413 the school district is located, as provided in Section 37-7-345;
- 414 (rr) To * * * incorporate financial literacy components
- 415 within the curriculum offered to * * * students in Grades * * *
- 416 6-8. Current curriculum for Grades 6-12 shall include content on
- 417 financial literacy education. Each student, during Grade 9, 10,
- 418 11 or 12, shall take and pass a one-half (1/2) Carnegie Unit
- 419 course, where at least one-half (1/2) of the course standards
- 420 concern financial literacy, in order to earn a high school
- 421 diploma. The financial literacy program shall include, but is not
- 422 limited to, instruction in the same areas of personal business and

423	finance as required under Section 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board
424	may coordinate with volunteer teachers from local community
425	organizations, including, but not limited to, the following:
426	United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, United
427	States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Junior
428	Achievement, bankers and other nonprofit organizations. * * * In
429	addition to any financial literacy standards administratively
430	required by the State Department of Education's College- and
431	Career-Readiness course, the financial literacy program for Grades
432	9, 10, 11 and 12 shall include, but not be limited to:
433	(i) Decision-making;
434	(ii) Earning an income;
435	(iii) Saving and spending;
436	(iv) Using credit; and
437	(v) Budgeting.
438	(ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,
439	Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to
440	develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for
441	a prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social,
442	and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old children.
443	The school board may utilize any source of available revenue to
444	fund the voluntary program. Effective with the 2013-2014 school
445	year, to implement voluntary prekindergarten programs under the
446	Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 pursuant to state funds
447	awarded by the State Department of Education on a matching basis;

448	(tt) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of
449	a school district, including, but not limited to, leases
450	(excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land),
451	bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the
452	obligee that the Department of Revenue or any state agency,
453	department or commission created under state law may:
454	(i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the
455	school board) of any monies which such local school board is
456	entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is
457	in the possession of the Department of Revenue, or any state
458	agency, department or commission created under state law; and
459	(ii) Pay the same over to any financial
460	institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by
461	the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the
462	school district.
463	The school board may make such written agreement to withhold
464	and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written
465	obligation and may include in the written agreement any other
466	terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the
467	school board files a copy of such written agreement with the
468	Department of Revenue, or any state agency, department or
469	commission created under state law then the Department of Revenue
470	or any state agency, department or commission created under state
471	law shall immediately make the withholdings provided in such
472	agreement from the amounts due the local school board and shall

473 continue to pay the same over to such financial institution, 474 trustee or obligee for the term of the agreement.

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

(uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder as a good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type of good-faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of investments, including pooled investments, as any other political subdivision, including community hospitals;

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

498	(ww) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a
499	contract with private entities for the operation of any and all
500	functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations
501	including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial
502	services, transportation, professional development, achievement
503	and instructional consulting services materials and products,
504	purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,
505	auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,
506	data processing and student records, and other staff services;
507	however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the
508	leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.
509	Local school districts, working through their regional education
510	service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with
511	other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of
512	state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;
513	(xx) To partner with entities, organizations and
514	corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district;
515	(yy) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic
516	Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings;
517	(zz) To fund and operate voluntary early childhood
518	education programs, defined as programs for children less than
519	five (5) years of age on or before September 1, and to use any
520	source of revenue for such early childhood education programs.
521	Such programs shall not conflict with the Early Learning
522	Collaborative Act of 2013;

523	(aaa) To issue and provide for the use of procurement
524	cards by school board members, superintendents and licensed school
525	personnel consistent with the rules and regulations of the
526	Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration under Section
527	31-7-9; and
528	(* * * <u>aab</u>) To conduct an annual comprehensive
529	evaluation of the superintendent of schools consistent with the
530	assessment components of paragraph (pp) of this section and the
531	assessment benchmarks established by the Mississippi School Board
532	Association to evaluate the success the superintendent has
533	attained in meeting district goals and objectives, the
534	superintendent's leadership skill and whether or not the
535	superintendent has established appropriate standards for
536	performance, is monitoring success and is using data for
537	improvement.
538	SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
539	and after July 1, 2025.