

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1768

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
7 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in the State
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
9 funding K-12 and other related educational activities, including
10 certain agencies and programs, in the State of Mississippi, for
11 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026,
12 as follows:

13 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
14 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education, and
15 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
16 Division.....\$ 107,369,734.00.

17 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
18 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
19 Division of the State Department of Education.....
20\$ 86,567,761.00.

21 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
22 paying annual compensation to the Chickasaw Cession counties for

23 sixteenth section lands which they lost through sale by the state,
24 as provided in Sections 29-3-137 through 29-3-141, Mississippi
25 Code of 1972.....\$ 19,535,843.00.

26 (d) To the State Board of Education for defraying the
27 expenses of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.....
28 \$ 2,732,814,967.00.

29 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
30 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,946,288,305.00.

31 **SECTION 2.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
32 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in any special
33 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or
34 funds of the agencies or programs specified in the following
35 paragraphs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
36 June 30, 2026, as follows:

37 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
38 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,
39 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
40 Division.....\$ 1,992,703,563.00.

41 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
42 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
43 Division of the State Department of Education.....
44 \$ 22,721,414.00.

45 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
46 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.
47 \$ 268,025,562.00.

48 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED

49 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,283,450,539.00.

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

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

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

66	Literacy Initiative and Assessment.....\$	6,805,774.00
67	Educable Child.....\$	9,500,000.00
68	Grants to school districts for	
69	capital facilities and buses.....\$	16,000,000.00
70	Instructional materials.....\$	25,000,000.00
71	Students with Special Needs.....\$	1,800,000.00
72	Implementing Performance-Based Data	
73	Collection and Accreditation	
74	Model.....\$	274,937.00

75	Testing.....	\$	6,125,670.00
76	Mississippi School for Math and		
77	Science.....	\$	1,131,000.00
78	Mississippi School for Fine Arts.	\$	927,632.00
79	Early Learning Collaboratives.....	\$	21,210,526.00
80	Other Early Learning Programs.....	\$	13,000,000.00
81	Early Learning Coaches.....	\$	3,251,533.00
82	Math Coaches.....	\$	5,000,000.00
83	WorkKeys.....	\$	1,000,000.00
84	Advanced Placement, Dual Credits,		
85	International Baccalaureate,		
86	Cambridge Diploma Endorsements.....	\$	300,000.00
87	Vocational Technical Grants.....	\$	1,000,000.00
88	Mississippi School for the Deaf		
89	and Blind.....	\$	1,557,037.00
90	TOTAL.....	\$	113,884,109.00

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

94 (c) To the State Department of Education to provide
 95 funding for the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.....
 96\$ 268,025,562.00.

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

101 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

102 Permanent: 329

103 Time-Limited: 124

104 With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's
105 responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal
106 Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds
107 appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are
108 added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi
109 Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's
110 personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board
111 shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may
112 consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year
113 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025
114 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that
115 the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount
116 and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments
117 or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current
118 employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee
119 salary falls below the minimum salary established by the
120 Mississippi State Personnel Board.

121 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
122 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
123 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
124 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
125 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
126 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the

127 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
128 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
129 essential for the agency.

130 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
131 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
132 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
133 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
134 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
135 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
136 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
137 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
138 appropriated level.

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

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

147 **SECTION 6.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
148 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
149 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be
150 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to
151 achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education,
152 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education

Division. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Special Education	
Number of Special Education Teachers (FTE)	5,963
Number of Gifted Education Teachers	660
Percent Increase of Children with	
Disabilities in General Education Early	
Childhood Programs while Decreasing the	
Percent in Self-Contained Special	
Education Early Childhood Classrooms	76.00
General Administration	
Total Dollars Spent on General	
Administration	19,250,220.00
Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
Administration	15.70
Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
All Stakeholders	100.00
Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
Public and School Districts to Access	
Data to Make Decisions	100.00
Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
Number of Research Results Published to	

179	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
180	Teacher Effectiveness	9
181	Graduation & Career Readiness	
182	Percent Increase of Students Graduating	
183	from High School Ready for College or	
184	Career in Each Subgroup	100.00
185	Early Childhood Education	
186	Percent Increase of Kindergarten	
187	Students Achieving End-Of-Year Target	
188	Score on Kindergarten Readiness	
189	Post-Test	69.75
190	Percent Increase of Early Learning	
191	Collaborative Sites Meeting Required	
192	Rate of Readiness	96.91
193	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
194	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	8,866
195	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
196	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
197	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
198	That Are High Poverty	31.00
199	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
200	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	
201	That Are High Minority	35.00
202	Percent Increase of Districts Reporting	
203	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
204	for Teachers and Leaders	96.00

205	Percent Increase of Teacher Candidates	
206	Passing Licensure Exams on the First	
207	Attempt	45.00
208	Increase the Number of Licensed, Diverse	
209	Teachers and Leaders	35.00
210	Elementary Education	
211	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
212	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
213	First Administration in Each Subgroup	80.00
214	Secondary Education	
215	Increase the Number of Students	
216	Participating in and Passing Advanced	
217	Placement (AP), International	
218	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
219	in Each Subgroup	37.00
220	Percent Increase of Students Ready for	
221	College as Measured by Meeting ACT	
222	Benchmarks in Each Content Area (Public	
223	School Class Data, Grade 11)	11.00
224	Assessment & Development	
225	Increase the Percent of Students	
226	Proficient (Levels 4-5) on Statewide	
227	Assessments (Grades 3-8 & High School	
228	Composite) in Each Subgroup	53.00
229	Decrease the Percent of Students Scoring	
230	Levels 1-3 on Statewide Assessments in	

231	Each Subgroup	47.00
232	Increase Percent of Pre-Kindergarten	
233	Students in Public Schools Attaining	
234	Kindergarten Readiness on the Pre-K	
235	End-Of-Year Assessment	72.00
236	School Performance	
237	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	85.00
238	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	85.00
239	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
240	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
241	Subgroup	70.00
242	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
243	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
244	Subgroup	75.00
245	Percent of Students Participating in	
246	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	60.00
247	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
248	in Each Subgroup	98.00
249	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
250	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
251	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
252	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	80.00
253	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
254	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	
255	Increasing the Number of Points within a	
256	Letter Grade	80.00

Increase the Growth of Districts of
Transformation by Improving the Letter
Grade and/or Increasing the Number of
Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
Increase the Growth of Schools Under
Districts of Transformation by Improving
the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the
Number of Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
Decrease the Number of High Schools
Rated D or F 40.00

A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.

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

SECTION 8. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from
income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of

1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for the School for Math and Science.

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

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	48
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Time-Limited:	5
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With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds required for Personal Services for Fiscal Year 2027 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2026 funds appropriated for that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the Mississippi Legislature. The Legislature shall determine the agency's personal services appropriation, which the State Personnel Board shall publish. The agency's personal services appropriation may consist of restricted funds for approved vacancies for Fiscal Year 2026 that may be utilized to fill vacant Fiscal Year 2025 headcount. It shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that the funds provided for vacancies are used to increase headcount and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current employees. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee salary falls below the minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

309 Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and
310 publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current
311 employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to
312 ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do
313 not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If
314 the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the
315 annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the
316 State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be
317 essential for the agency.

318 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
319 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or
320 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
321 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
322 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
323 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
324 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
325 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
326 appropriated level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Detention Centers.....	\$ 3,000,000.00.
Dyslexia Program.....	\$ 225,000.00.
Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$ 800,000.00.
Magnolia Speech School.....	\$ 1,000,000.00.

361	Sight Savers.....	\$	375,000.00.
362	Teach for America.....	\$	860,000.00.
363	Teacher Corp and Principal Corp.....	\$	300,000.00.
364	Vision Screening Research.....	\$	225,000.00.
365	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$	200,000,00.
366	Algebra Nation.....	\$	1,100,000.00.
367	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$	212,500.00.
368	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$	100,000.00.
369	JumpStart Act.....	\$	250,000.00.
370	Mastery Prep.....	\$	200,000.00.
371	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$	40,000.00.
372	TOTAL.....	\$	8,887,500.00.

373 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
374 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section
375 4(a), Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000.00) is included for
376 the Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant
377 opportunities for Other Early Learning Programs through public
378 schools including other public school preschool programs not
379 participating in Early Learning Collaboratives.

380 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
381 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
382 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for
383 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic
384 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi
385 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and
386 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education.

All programs must meet Mississippi Science Standards and/or
College and Career Standards.

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

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

SECTION 17. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum
of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),
which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the
Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the
Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution
of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school

districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal Year 1985.

SECTION 18. Of the funds provided in this act for the purpose of funding the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, the Student Base Amount in Fiscal Year 2026 shall be Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-two Dollars and Sixty-one Cents (\$6,842.61).

SECTION 19. With the funds provided in this act, it is the intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual increment.

SECTION 20. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the same format and level of detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the budget requests for Fiscal Year 2027 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request process for each agency and institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

SECTION 21. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) to the State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-three Million Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$23,080,000.00) shall be used for National Board Certification. Of this amount, Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be used for the World Class Teacher Program providing instruction and assistance to teachers seeking National Board Certification.

SECTION 22. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and Section 4(a) not less than Seventeen Million Five Hundred Fifty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$17,558,000.00) shall be used for the Educable Child Program. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Board of Education shall allocate funding for the Educable Child Program based upon a recalculated formula in a manner to include only those billable days funded through appropriation of state funds and not District funds. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Educable Child funds shall be exempt from budget cuts made to the Department of Education by the Legislature and/or the Office of the Governor.

SECTION 23. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and Section 4(a), not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) shall be used for the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) Program. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) funds shall not be reduced by the State Department of Education and/or the Office of the Governor.

SECTION 24. The public school districts of the state are authorized at their discretion to pay with local funds one hundred

percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance premiums of the State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan for all retired members of the Public Employees' Retirement System who are employed as school bus drivers by the school districts. It is the intention of the Legislature that no state funds shall be used for this purpose.

SECTION 25. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

SECTION 26. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less than Six Million Four Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-eight Dollars (\$6,414,898.00) shall be used for the Compulsory School Attendance Office and School Attendance Officers.

SECTION 27. Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the intention of the Legislature that Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is provided from the Department of Health.

489 **SECTION 28.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
490 State Board of Education shall charge a fee for room and board for
491 students who enroll in the Mississippi School for Mathematics and
492 Science and the Mississippi School of Arts. Such fees will be
493 waived for any student enrolled in the State Children's Health
494 Insurance Program. The amount of such fees shall be Five Hundred
495 Dollars (\$500.00) for each semester.

496 **SECTION 29.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
497 eligible employee who meets the National Board requirements under
498 Section 37-19-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be paid the
499 full supplement and that such supplement shall be included on a
500 prorated basis in the employee's monthly paycheck.

501 **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
502 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or
503 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars
504 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of
505 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency
506 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code
507 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
508 June 30, 2026. The school districts receiving these loans shall
509 repay the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the
510 loan on or before June 30, 2026.

511 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven
512 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the
513 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2025.

SECTION 32. Any school district receiving funds through Save the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local funds for implementation of the program.

SECTION 33. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%) may be used for training and administrative costs related to oversight and auditing of the program.

SECTION 34. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and Section 2(a), Twenty-nine Million Dollars (\$29,000,000.00) is provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in Fiscal Year 2026 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and no less than One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250.00) per student in a half-day program. Funds must be matched as provided by Section 37-21-51, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 35. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and Section 4(a), Fifteen Million Ninety-four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$15,094,500.00) shall be used for the Literacy Initiative and Assessment and monitoring and evaluating the adoption and implementation of high-quality instructional materials that have been reviewed through the approved state process and distributed through regional textbook depository as outlined in Section 37-43-23, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 36. Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion of the state accountability model.

SECTION 37. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two Million Seven Hundred Forty-eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-two Dollars (\$2,748,452.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School of the Arts and Four Million Thirty-one Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-seven Dollars (\$4,031,297.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. It is the intention of the Legislature that of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) for the Mississippi School of the Arts, One Million Three Hundred Seventy-four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-six Dollars (\$1,374,226.00) shall be paid to the school no later than July 10, 2025, and One Million Three Hundred Seventy-four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty-six Dollars (\$1,374,226.00) shall be paid no later than January 10, 2026. All funds appropriated from Section 4(a) for the Mississippi School of the Arts shall be paid to the school each month within ten (10) working days after such amount was received by the Department of Education. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State Board of Education shall not reduce the appropriated amounts provided in this act for the Mississippi School of the Arts and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science.

SECTION 38. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) and Section 2(b), Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) is provided for career and technical grants to schools for qualified

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

SECTION 39. Of the funds appropriated in this act, the following amounts shall be available to the Schools for the Blind and Deaf: Ten Million Five Hundred Thirty-one Thousand Eighty-eight Dollars (\$10,531,088.00) from Section 1(a), One Million Five Hundred Fifty-seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars (\$1,557,037.00) from Section 4(a), and Two Million Four Hundred Fifty-nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$2,459,725.00) from Section 2(a).

SECTION 40. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) of this act, One Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,400,000.00) is provided for the continuation of the current school safety platform.

SECTION 41. Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Three Hundred One Dollars (\$4,171,301.00) is authorized to fully fund the contract between the Department of Education and the Research & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career and technical assessments.

SECTION 42. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) to the State Board of Education, Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars (\$562,999.00) is provided for secondary career and technical education instructors teaching at post-secondary institutions.

SECTION 43. In addition to all other funds appropriated herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 1,400,000.00.

SECTION 44. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b), One Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to defray administrative costs.

SECTION 45. The Mississippi Department of Education shall provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2026.

SECTION 46. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi Department of Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House Bill 1823, 2024 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 33,934,767.00.

618 This reappropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing
619 the expenditure of funds as allocated herein:

620 a. Instructional Materials.....\$ 9,688,518.00.

621 b. Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 15,485,203.00.

622 c. Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 8,761,046.00.

623 Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,
624 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this
625 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds
626 remaining as of June 30, 2025, from the amount authorized for the
627 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not
628 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

629 **SECTION 47.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
630 Mississippi Department of Education is authorized to make payments
631 for expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an amount not
632 to exceed Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Nine Dollars and
633 Eighty-six Cents (\$15,309.86). These payments are for previous
634 year invoices for Accelerate Learning Inc. and McGraw Hill LLC.

635 **SECTION 48.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
636 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year
637 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),
638 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be considered having a year of
639 experience for purposes of the annual experience salary increment.

640 **SECTION 49.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid
641 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
642 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
643 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his

644 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or
645 officers in the manner provided by law.

646 **SECTION 50.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
647 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after
648 June 30, 2025.

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

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING
2 K-12 AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN
3 AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE FISCAL
4 YEAR 2026.

SS15\HB1768A.J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate