

Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill No. 1768

BY: Committee

**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



Mississippi School for the Deaf
and Blind.....\$ 1,557,037.00
TOTAL.....\$ 113,884,109.00

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

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

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

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 329
Time-Limited: 124

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.

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

Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law or allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions



without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level.

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federal funds and/or other special funds used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

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

SECTION 6. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education, 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	



162	Disabilities in General Education Early	
163	Childhood Programs while Decreasing the	
164	Percent in Self-Contained Special	
165	Education Early Childhood Classrooms	76.00
166	General Administration	
167	Total Dollars Spent on General	
168	Administration	19,250,220.00
169	Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
170	Administration	15.70
171	Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
172	All Stakeholders	100.00
173	Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
174	Public and School Districts to Access	
175	Data to Make Decisions	100.00
176	Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
177	Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
178	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
257	Increase the Growth of Districts of	
258	Transformation by Improving the Letter	
259	Grade and/or Increasing the Number of	
260	Points within a Letter Grade	100.00
261	Increase the Growth of Schools Under	



262 Districts of Transformation by Improving
263 the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the
264 Number of Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
265 Decrease the Number of High Schools
266 Rated D or F 40.00

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

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

279 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
280 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from
281 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
282 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of
283 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for
284 the School for Math and Science.

285 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
286 this act, the following positions are authorized for the



Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State

Department of Education:

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent: 48

Time-Limited: 5

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.

Additionally, the State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annualized payroll costs based on current employees. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to



ensure that actual personnel expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026 do not exceed the data provided by the Legislative Budget Office. If the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 projected cost exceeds the annualized costs, no salary actions shall be processed by the State Personnel Board except for new hires determined to be essential for the agency.

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

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

None of the funds herein appropriated shall be used in violation of the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 15-A relating to the reporting of income paid to contract employees, as 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



337 Seventy-four Dollars (\$1,023,574.00) is authorized for the support
338 of vocational and technical education programs as authorized in
339 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess
340 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.

341 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
342 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
343 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in
344 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars
345 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
346 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase
347 soil conservation equipment.

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

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

357 Detention Centers.....	\$ 3,000,000.00.
358 Dyslexia Program.....	\$ 225,000.00.
359 Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$ 800,000.00.
360 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.

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

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

SECTION 30. It is the intention of the Legislature that the Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of providing funds to school districts through the Emergency Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending 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.

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

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

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

532 **SECTION 35.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
533 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



584 & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career
585 and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career
586 and technical assessments.

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

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

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

606 **SECTION 45.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall
607 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry
608 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.

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

- a. Instructional Materials.....\$ 9,688,518.00.
- b. Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 15,485,203.00.
- c. Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 8,761,046.00.

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

SECTION 47. With the funds appropriated herein, the Mississippi Department of Education is authorized to make payments for expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an amount not 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.

