

By: Representatives Oliver,
Arnold, Boyd (19th), Hines,
Mangold, Massengill, Read,
Roberson, Scoggin

To: Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 42

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.

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

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.....\$ 114,575,826.00.

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\$ 86,569,006.00.

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\$ 2,706,830,239.00.

29 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
30 BY THIS SECTION BEING.....\$ 2,927,510,914.00.

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.....\$ 1,998,705,677.00.

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\$ 22,721,640.00.



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.....\$ 2,289,452,879.00.

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.....\$	2,557,037.00
90	Children's Foundation of Mississippi.....\$	437,000.00
91	Excel by 5.....\$	300,000.00
92	Alyssa's Law Pilot Program.....\$	160,000.00
93	Mississippi Teacher Residency Program.....\$	3,500,000.00
94	TOTAL.....\$	119,281,109.00



(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 under the provisions of this act to the State Department of Education, excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division, not more than the following amount of funds, with the exception of the provisions in this section, shall be expended only for "Personal Services," which includes "Vacancy Funding," for the following authorized number of employment headcount:

FUNDING:

General Funds:	\$ 18,529,863.00
Special Funds:	\$ 19,024,080.00
Total Funds:	\$ 37,553,943.00

PERSONAL SERVICES:

Employee Salaries, Wages, and	
Fringe Benefits:	\$ 35,966,230.00
Progressions:	\$ 0.00
Vacancy Funding:	\$ 1,587,713.00
Total Personal Services:	\$ 37,553,943.00

AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

Permanent:	330
------------	-----



positions are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2026 budget by the
Mississippi Legislature.

If, at the time the agency takes any action to change
"Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the
agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the
agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when
annualized for Fiscal Year 2026 or increase the need for "Personal
Services" for Fiscal Year 2027, when annualized, the State
Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as
the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with
the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the
agency.

When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds
included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and
designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2026. These funds
are to be utilized to increase the number of filled headcounts
that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of Fiscal
Year 2025. If the agency fills additional headcounts after May 1,
2025, until the end of Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of available
Vacancy Funding may be proportionally reduced to reflect the
updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall be
responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to
increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes,
in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing
salaries for current employees.



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 headcounts without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year 2025 escalated headcounts have been accounted for and shall be converted to authorized time-limited headcounts.

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.

If the agency's total authorized headcount decreases from Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026, it will be the agency's discretion as to what headcounts are removed.

The Legislature authorized one (1) new headcount, which is included in the authorized headcount above for Fiscal Year 2026.

New Headcount Title Authorized:



General Management Job Classification - 1

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)	6,500
	Number of Gifted Education Teachers	750
	Percent 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	16,000,000.00
	Percent of Total Budget Spent on General	
	Administration	10.00



219	Create a Public-Facing Data System for	
220	All Stakeholders	100.00
221	Create a User-Friendly Website for the	
222	Public and School Districts to Access	
223	Data to Make Decisions	100.00
224	Create a Roadmap to Improve the	
225	Mississippi Student Information System	100.00
226	Number of Research Results Published to	
227	Support Improved Student Outcomes and	
228	Teacher Effectiveness	9
229	Graduation & Career Readiness	
230	Percent of Students Graduating from High	
231	School Ready for College or Career in	
232	Each Subgroup	100.00
233	Early Childhood Education	
234	Percent of Kindergarten Students	
235	Achieving End-Of-Year Target Score on	
236	Kindergarten Readiness Post-Test	100.00
237	Percent of Early Learning Collaborative	
238	Sites Meeting Required Rate of Readiness	100.00
239	Number of Students Enrolled in Title I	
240	or Locally Funded Pre-K Classes	8,866
241	Teacher Tng & Professional Dev	
242	Reduce the Proportion of Inexperienced	
243	and Non-Certified Teachers in Schools	31.00



244	Percent of Districts Reporting	
245	Professional Growth System (PGS) Ratings	
246	for Teachers and Leaders	100.00
247	Percent of Teacher Candidates Passing	
248	Licensure Exams on the First Attempt	75.00
249	Elementary Education	
250	Percent Increase of Students who Pass	
251	the 3rd Grade Reading Assessment at the	
252	First Administration in Each Subgroup	90.00
253	Secondary Education	
254	Increase the Number of Students	
255	Participating in and Passing Advanced	
256	Placement (AP), International	
257	Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Exams	
258	in Each Subgroup	60.00
259	Percent of Students Ready for College as	
260	Measured by Meeting ACT Benchmarks in	
261	Each Content Area (Public School Class	
262	Data, Grade 11)	90.00
263	Assessment & Development	
264	Percent of Students Proficient (Levels	
265	4-5) on Statewide Assessments (Grades	
266	3-8 & High School Composite) in Each	
267	Subgroup	80.00
268	Percent of Students Scoring Levels 1-3	



269	on Statewide Assessments in Each	
270	Subgroup	20.00
271	Percent of Pre-Kindergarten Students in	
272	Public Schools Attaining Kindergarten	
273	Readiness on the Pre-K End-Of-Year	
274	Assessment	90.00
275	School Performance	
276	Percent of Schools Rated "C" or Higher	90.00
277	Percent of Districts Rated "C" or Higher	90.00
278	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
279	on Statewide ELA Assessments in Each	
280	Subgroup	70.00
281	Percent of Students Demonstrating Growth	
282	on Statewide Math Assessments in Each	
283	Subgroup	75.00
284	Percent of Students Participating in	
285	Dual Credit in Each Subgroup	60.00
286	Percent of Students Passing Dual Credit	
287	in Each Subgroup	98.00
288	Increase the Growth of D and F Districts	
289	Demonstrating Growth, by Improving the	
290	Letter Grade and/or Increasing the	
291	Number of Points within a Letter Grade	80.00
292	Increase the Growth of D and F Schools	
293	by Improving the Letter Grade and/or	



294 Increasing the Number of Points within a
 295 Letter Grade 80.00
 296 Increase the Growth of Districts of
 297 Transformation by Improving the Letter
 298 Grade and/or Increasing the Number of
 299 Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
 300 Increase the Growth of Schools Under
 301 Districts of Transformation by Improving
 302 the Letter Grade and/or Increasing the
 303 Number of Points within a Letter Grade 100.00
 304 Number of High Schools Rated D or F 10
 305 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
 306 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
 307 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
 308 Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.
 309 **SECTION 7.** No school district shall expend any funds,
 310 received under the School Ad Valorem Reduction Grant, unless such
 311 school district has specifically identified the amount of the
 312 grant within the published budget as required by Section 37-61-9,
 313 Mississippi Code of 1972. The published budget shall include the
 314 following statement: "Ad Valorem taxes will be \$_____ less as
 315 a result of the Ad Valorem Reduction Grants enacted by the
 316 Mississippi Legislature in 1992."
 317 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
 318 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from



319 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
320 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of
321 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for
322 the School for Math and Science.

323 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
324 this act to the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the
325 State Department of Education, not more than the following amount
326 of funds, with the exception of the provisions in this section,
327 shall be expended only for "Personal Services," which includes
328 "Vacancy Funding," for the following authorized number of
329 employment headcount:

330 FUNDING:

331 General Funds:	\$ 3,324,498.00
332 Special Funds:	\$ 714,395.00
333 Total Funds:	\$ 4,038,893.00

334 PERSONAL SERVICES:

335 Employee Salaries, Wages, and	
336 Fringe Benefits:	\$ 3,535,004.00
337 Progressions:	\$ 0.00
338 Vacancy Funding:	\$ 503,889.00
339 Total Personal Services:	\$ 4,038,893.00

340 AUTHORIZED HEADCOUNT:

341 Permanent:	48
342 Time-Limited:	5



As used in this section, the term "Personal Services" shall mean funds provided under the major object of expenditure category Personal Services for Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits. Funds in this category shall not be transferred to any other category.

It is the intention of the Legislature to ensure compliance with the Variable Compensation Plan, as outlined in Section 25-9-147, Mississippi Code of 1972. Payment from these funds shall be in accordance with the Variable Compensation Plan promulgated by the Mississippi State Personnel Board. It is the Legislature's intention that no employee's salary falls below the minimum salary established by the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

The State Personnel Board shall determine and publish the projected annual cost of "Personal Services" based on monthly and year-to-date payroll expenditures in compliance with the provisions of this act.

With the funds herein appropriated, it shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that no single personnel action or combination of personnel actions, when annualized, exceeds the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation for "Personal Services" with the exception of escalated funds. Further, it shall be the agency's responsibility to ensure that funds required to be appropriated 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.



If, at the time the agency takes any action to change "Personal Services," the State Personnel Board determines that the agency has taken or will take an action that would cause the agency to exceed the funds appropriated in this act when annualized for Fiscal Year 2026 or increase the need for "Personal Services" for Fiscal Year 2027, when annualized, the State Personnel Board shall process no salary actions until such time as the requirements of the provisions of this section are met with the exception of new hires determined to be essential for the agency.

When used in this section, "Vacancy Funding" shall mean funds included in the Total Personal Services amount listed above and designated for approved vacancies in Fiscal Year 2026. These funds are to be utilized to increase the number of filled headcounts that were authorized but unfilled as of the last day of Fiscal Year 2025. If the agency fills additional headcounts after May 1, 2025, until the end of Fiscal Year 2025, the amount of available Vacancy Funding may be proportionally reduced to reflect the updated number of filled headcounts. The agency shall be responsible for ensuring that "Vacancy Funding" is used to increase headcounts and not for promotions, title changes, in-range salary adjustments, or any other mechanism for increasing salaries for current employees.

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 headcounts without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the appropriated level. Unless specifically noted, all Fiscal Year 2025 escalated headcounts have been accounted for and shall be converted to authorized time-limited headcounts.

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.

If the agency's total authorized headcount decreases from Fiscal Year 2025 to Fiscal Year 2026, it will be the agency's discretion as to what headcounts are removed.

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



417 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess
418 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.

419 **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
420 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
421 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in
422 Section 1, transfer no more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars
423 (\$75,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
424 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase
425 soil conservation equipment.

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

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

435 Detention Centers.....	\$ 3,000,000.00.
436 Dyslexia Program.....	\$ 225,000.00.
437 Amplify Data Coaching.....	\$ 800,000.00.
438 Magnolia Speech School.....	\$ 1,000,000.00.
439 Sight Savers.....	\$ 475,000.00.
440 Teach for America.....	\$ 860,000.00.
441 Teacher Corp and Principal Corp.....	\$ 300,000.00.



442	Vision Screening Research.....	\$	325,000.00.
443	Lighthouse Academy for Dyslexia.....	\$	200,000.00.
444	Algebra Nation.....	\$	1,100,000.00.
445	Mississippi Construction Education Program.....	\$	212,500.00.
446	T. K. Martin Center.....	\$	100,000.00.
447	JumpStart Act.....	\$	225,000.00.
448	Mastery Prep.....	\$	225,000.00.
449	Arts for All Mississippi.....	\$	50,000.00.
450	Can U University.....	\$	125,000.00.
451	Reading Clinic.....	\$	700,000.00.
452	TOTAL.....	\$	9,922,500.00.

453 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
454 the funds provided for Other Early Learning Programs in Section
455 4(a), Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000.00) is included for
456 the Mississippi Department of Education to provide grant
457 opportunities for Other Early Learning Programs through public
458 schools including other public school preschool programs not
459 participating in Early Learning Collaboratives.

460 **SECTION 15.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
461 not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
462 (\$1,500,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for
463 agricultural programs, computer science, engineering or robotic
464 engineering programs and equipment upgrades and Mississippi
465 Elementary (ME) STEM and STEAM programs from the Career and
466 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-seven Dollars and Thirty-three Cents (\$6,847.33).

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-four Million Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$24,080,000.00) 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 Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) 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



566 Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) shall be used for the Mary
567 Kirkpatrick-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program. The
568 amount of Three Million Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,060,000.00) is
569 provided from the Department of Health.

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

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

582 **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
583 Mississippi Department of Education may loan any general or
584 special source fund amount, not to exceed Five Million Dollars
585 (\$5,000,000.00), to any school district for the purpose of
586 providing funds to school districts through the Emergency
587 Assistance Fund as outlined in Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code
588 of 1972, during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
589 June 30, 2026. The school districts receiving these loans shall



590 repay the Mississippi Department of Education the amount of the
591 loan on or before June 30, 2026.

592 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
593 Million One Hundred Sixty-five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Dollars
594 (\$2,165,290.00) is provided for the operation of a State-Wide
595 Synchronous Instructional Project.

596 **SECTION 32.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Seven
597 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$700,000.00) shall be transferred to the
598 Board of Health no later than December 31, 2025.

599 **SECTION 33.** Any school district receiving funds through Save
600 the Children may provide a ten percent (10%) match from local
601 funds for implementation of the program.

602 **SECTION 34.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two
603 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi
604 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant
605 program. A portion of these funds not to exceed one percent (1%)
606 may be used for training and administrative costs related to
607 oversight and auditing of the program.

608 **SECTION 35.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a) and
609 Section 2(a), Twenty-nine Million Dollars (\$29,000,000.00) is
610 provided for an Early Childhood Education Initiative program. The
611 funding shall be provided to early learning collaboratives in
612 Fiscal Year 2026 as follows: no less than Two Thousand Five
613 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per student in a full-day program and
614 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 36. 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 37. Of the funds appropriated herein, funding is provided for the ACT test, which is the college readiness portion of the state accountability model.

SECTION 38. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Two Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand One Hundred Thirty-two Dollars (\$2,750,132.00) shall be used for the Mississippi School of the Arts and Four Million Thirty-three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$4,033,775.00) 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-five Thousand Sixty-six Dollars (\$1,375,066.00) shall be paid to the school no later than July 10, 2025, and One Million Three Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Sixty-six Dollars (\$1,375,066.00) 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 39. 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 40. 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-six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-two Dollars (\$10,536,842.00) from Section 1(a), Two Million Five Hundred Fifty-seven Thousand Thirty-seven Dollars (\$2,557,037.00) 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 41. 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.



665 **SECTION 42.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
666 not to exceed Four Million One Hundred Seventy-one Thousand Three
667 Hundred One Dollars (\$4,171,301.00) is authorized to fully fund
668 the contract between the Department of Education and the Research
669 & Curriculum Unit at Mississippi State University to fund career
670 and technical curricula, services to secondary schools and career
671 and technical assessments.

672 **SECTION 43.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b) to the
673 State Board of Education, Five Hundred Sixty-two Thousand Nine
674 Hundred Ninety-nine Dollars (\$562,999.00) is provided for
675 secondary career and technical education instructors teaching at
676 post-secondary institutions.

677 **SECTION 44.** In addition to all other funds appropriated
678 herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary,
679 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to
680 the credit of the Charter School Authorizer Board for operational
681 expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
682 June 30, 2026.....\$ 1,400,000.00.

683 **SECTION 45.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(b), One
684 Million Four Hundred Thirty-two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-two
685 Dollars (\$1,432,872.00) shall be provided for new Career and
686 Technical Education Programs as determined by the Division of
687 Vocational and Technical Education at the Mississippi Department
688 of Education. Of the funds appropriated to the department for



689 these programs, no amount shall be expended by the department to
690 defray administrative costs.

691 **SECTION 46.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall
692 provide an annual report detailing the funding of industry
693 certifications and the anticipated industry certifications that
694 will be achieved in the upcoming fiscal year to the Legislative
695 Budget Office and the Legislature no later than January 15, 2026.

696 **SECTION 47.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
697 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education
698 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the Mississippi
699 Department of Education for the purpose of reauthorizing the
700 expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds as authorized in House
701 Bill 1823, 2024 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning
702 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....\$ 30,117,393.00.

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

705 a. Instructional Materials.....\$ 2,732,190.00.
706 b. Early Learning Collaboratives.....\$ 15,485,203.00.
707 c. Other Early Learning Programs.....\$ 11,900,000.00.

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



714 **SECTION 48.** With the funds appropriated herein, the
715 Mississippi Department of Education is authorized to make payments
716 for expenses incurred during prior fiscal years for an amount not
717 to exceed Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Nine Dollars and
718 Eighty-six Cents (\$15,309.86). These payments are for previous
719 year invoices for Accelerate Learning Inc. and McGraw Hill LLC.

720 **SECTION 49.** It is the intent of the Legislature that each
721 eligible professional school counselor employee who meets the year
722 of teaching experience requirements under Section 37-151-5(m),
723 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be considered having a year of
724 experience for purposes of the annual experience salary increment.

725 **SECTION 50.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid
726 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
727 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
728 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue warrants
729 upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers
730 in the manner provided by law.

731 **SECTION 51.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
732 and after July 1, 2025.

