

By: Representative Manning

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 751

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BEGINNING PRINCIPAL SUPPORT PILOT
2 PROGRAM UNDER THE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF THE
3 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF
4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE
5 STANDARDS FOR MENTOR PRINCIPALS AND BEGINNING PRINCIPALS
6 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF
7 SUCH PRINCIPALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) The following words and phrases shall have
10 the meanings ascribed in this section unless the context clearly
11 indicates otherwise:

12 (a) "Beginning principal" means a principal who:

13 (i) Possesses an administrator's license issued by
14 the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,
15 Certification and Licensure and Development;

16 (ii) Is employed as a principal by a public school
17 district; and

18 (iii) Has served fewer than ninety (90)
19 consecutive days, or one hundred eighty (180) days total, as a
20 licensed principal in any public school.

21 (b) "Formal assistance" means a program provided by a
22 mentor principal to a beginning principal which includes, but is
23 not limited to: direct administrative observation and
24 consultation; assistance in administrative planning and
25 preparation; support in implementation and delivery of principal
26 administrative responsibilities; and support in the administrative
27 functions of school leadership, student psychology, student
28 health, student drug abuse, human relations, multicultural and

29 multiethnic relations, crisis management and other assistance
30 intended to enhance the professional performance and development
31 of the beginning principal.

32 (c) "Mentor principal" means a principal who:

33 (i) Possesses a standard administrative license
34 issued by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,
35 Certification and Licensure and Development;

36 (ii) Is employed at the time of selection under
37 contract primarily as a principal by a public school district;

38 (iii) Has successfully served for three (3) or
39 more years as a licensed principal in any public school; and

40 (iv) Has demonstrated mastery of administrative
41 skills and subject matter knowledge and has been selected and
42 trained as described in this act.

43 (2) The School Executive Management Institute of the State
44 Department of Education shall establish a Beginning Principal
45 Support Pilot Program to provide eligible beginning principals in
46 this state with continued and sustained support from a formally
47 assigned mentor principal during the first full year of principal
48 service.

49 (3) The State Board of Education shall select one (1) school
50 district in each of the five (5) Mississippi congressional
51 districts, pursuant to the application process provided for in
52 this section, to participate in the Beginning Principal Support
53 Pilot Program. Two (2) or more districts may operate jointly a
54 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program if the districts meet
55 all the requirements of this section. School districts may
56 coordinate with institutions of higher learning in the design,
57 implementation and evaluation of mentorship programs. Private
58 educational consortia established for approved principal education
59 programs are eligible to operate a Beginning Principal Support
60 Pilot Program to serve beginning principals in a participating
61 school district.

62 (4) Each district that wishes to participate in the
63 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program shall submit a formal
64 application to the School Executive Management Institute before
65 May 1 of each school year, according to rules of the institute.

66 By that date, districts shall inform the institute of the
67 following:

68 (a) The names of all eligible beginning principals
69 employed by the district and a description of their administrative
70 duties;

71 (b) The names of mentor principals selected by a
72 district and a description of their administrative assignments and
73 endorsements;

74 (c) A description of the content and calendar of the
75 proposed Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program. The program
76 shall provide a minimum of ninety (90) hours of direct contact
77 between mentor principals and beginning principals, including
78 observation or assistance with administrative duties, or both,
79 during the school day; and

80 (d) A description of the amount and nature of each
81 eligible beginning principal's administrative duties.

82 (5) After consulting with representatives of administrators,
83 school boards, schools of education of the institutions of higher
84 learning and such others as it considers appropriate, the School
85 Executive Management Institute shall develop or approve workshops
86 to provide training for mentor principals and beginning
87 principals.

88 (6) The selection, nature and extent of duties of mentor
89 principals shall be determined by the school district, subject to
90 the following:

91 (a) No principal shall be designated as a mentor
92 principal unless willing to perform in that role;

93 (b) Each mentor principal shall complete successfully a
94 training workshop provided or approved by the School Executive
95 Management Institute in the Beginning Principal Support Pilot
96 Program; and

97 (c) Participating school districts shall be fully
98 authorized to compensate principal mentors, grant release time for

99 principal mentors and employ and compensate substitute
100 administrators for additional duties performed under the beginning
101 principal mentorship program which are in addition to regular
102 school day responsibilities.

103 (7) The School Executive Management Institute shall be
104 responsible for the regular and ongoing evaluation of the
105 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program and may contract for
106 such evaluation. The institute shall report to the State Board of
107 Education and the Legislature in the 2003 Regular Session on the
108 desirability of extending this assistance program statewide.

109 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
110 and after July 1, 1999.