

By: McCoy

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 295

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-251, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING OR
3 DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BEGINNING PRINCIPAL SUPPORT PILOT
4 PROGRAM APPLY ANNUALLY FOR SELECTION TO THE PROGRAM; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 37-9-251, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-9-251. (1) The following words and phrases shall have
10 the meanings ascribed in this subsection unless the context
11 clearly 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

not limited to: direct administrative observation and consultation; assistance in administrative planning and preparation; support in implementation and delivery of principal administrative responsibilities; and support in the administrative functions of school leadership, student psychology, student health, student drug abuse, human relations, multicultural and multiethnic relations, crisis management and other assistance intended to enhance the professional performance and development of the beginning principal.

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

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

(ii) At the time of selection, is employed under contract primarily as a principal by a public school district or is retired from a public school district;

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

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

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

(3) The State Board of Education shall select one (1) school district in each of the five (5) Mississippi congressional districts, pursuant to the application process provided for in this section, to participate in the Beginning Principal Support

54 Pilot Program. Two (2) or more districts may operate jointly a
55 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program if the districts meet
56 all the requirements of this section. School districts may
57 coordinate with institutions of higher learning in the design,
58 implementation and evaluation of mentorship programs. Private
59 educational consortia established for approved principal education
60 programs are eligible to operate a Beginning Principal Support
61 Pilot Program to serve beginning principals in a participating
62 school district.

63 (4) Each district that wishes to participate in the
64 Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program shall submit a formal
65 application to the School Executive Management Institute * * *
66 according to rules of the institute. Along with an application,
67 districts shall provide the institute with the following
68 information:

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

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

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

81 (d) A description of the amount and nature of each

82 eligible beginning principal's administrative duties.

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

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

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

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

98 (c) Participating school districts shall be fully
99 authorized to compensate mentor principals, grant release time for
100 mentor principals and employ and compensate substitute
101 administrators for additional duties performed under the Beginning
102 Principal Support Pilot Program which are in addition to regular
103 school day responsibilities.

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

110 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after its passage.