

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Universities and  
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2557

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-15-37 AND 37-29-1, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, RELATING TO HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY OR COMMUNITY  
3 COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS, TO REVISE CONDITIONS FOR  
4 PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE THAT TUITION AND COSTS  
5 FOR UNIVERSITY LEVEL AND COMMUNITY LEVEL COURSES SHALL BE  
6 NEGOTIATED BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE UNIVERSITY OR  
7 COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND TO CLARIFY THAT ALL COURSE WORK TAKEN UNDER  
8 THE PROGRAM SHALL BE DUAL CREDIT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-15-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 37-15-37. The local school boards of public school districts  
13 and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning  
14 are authorized to establish a dual enrollment and dual credit  
15 program under which high school students meeting the requirements  
16 prescribed in this section may enroll at an institution of higher  
17 learning in Mississippi while they are still attending high school  
18 and enrolled in high school courses, with tuition and costs to be  
19 negotiated between school districts and the state institutions of  
20 higher learning and may be paid by grants, foundations or other  
21 private sources. Students may be admitted to enroll in  
22 university-level courses under the dual enrollment program if they  
23 meet the following recommended admission requirements:

24 (a) Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen  
25 (14) core high school units;

26 (b) Students must have a 2.5 grade point average on a  
27 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by  
28 an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must  
29 submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian

30 with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this  
31 paragraph; and

32 (c) Students must have an unconditional written  
33 recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance  
34 counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal  
35 guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the  
36 requirement of this paragraph.

37 Students may be considered for the dual enrollment program  
38 who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high  
39 school units if they have a minimum ACT composite score of  
40 twenty-eight (28) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the  
41 required grade point average and recommendations prescribed above.

42 Tuition and costs for university-level courses under this  
43 program shall be negotiated between school districts and state  
44 institutions of higher learning and may be paid from grants,  
45 foundations or other private sources, to be paid directly to the  
46 participating university. Students admitted in the dual  
47 enrollment program shall be counted for adequate education program  
48 funding purposes in the average daily attendance of the public  
49 school district in which they attend high school. Any additional  
50 transportation required by a student to participate in the dual  
51 enrollment program shall be the responsibility of the parents or  
52 legal guardians of the student, but may be paid for from private  
53 sources. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted  
54 to the dual enrollment program shall be recorded on the college  
55 transcript at the university where the student attends classes and  
56 where appropriate, as prescribed by the Mississippi Department of  
57 Education's high school graduation requirements, the state  
58 institutions of higher learning's admission requirements, and as  
59 described in the articulation agreement authorized in Section  
60 37-101-28, shall be counted as dual credit. The transcript of  
61 such university course work may be released to another institution

62 or used for college graduation requirements only after the student  
63 has received his high school diploma.

64 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
65 amended as follows:

66 37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and  
67 operation of community and junior colleges is authorized.  
68 Community and junior colleges may admit students if they have  
69 earned one (1) unit less than the number of units required for  
70 high school graduation established by State Board of Education  
71 policy or have earned a General Education Diploma (GED) in courses  
72 correlated to those of senior colleges or professional schools.  
73 They shall offer education and training preparatory for  
74 occupations such as agriculture, industry, business, homemaking  
75 and for other occupations on the semiprofessional and  
76 vocational-technical level. They may offer courses and services  
77 to students regardless of their previous educational attainment or  
78 further academic plans.

79 (2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior  
80 college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment  
81 program under which high school students meeting the requirements  
82 prescribed in this section may enroll and receive dual credit at a  
83 community or junior college while they are still attending high  
84 school and enrolled in high school courses. Students may be  
85 admitted to enroll in community or junior college courses under  
86 the dual enrollment program if they meet the following recommended  
87 admission requirements:

88 (a) Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen  
89 (14) core high school units;

90 (b) Students must have a 2.5 grade point average on a  
91 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by  
92 an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must  
93 submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian

94 with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this  
95 paragraph; and

96 (c) Students must have an unconditional written  
97 recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance  
98 counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal  
99 guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the  
100 requirement of this paragraph.

101 Students may be considered for the dual enrollment program  
102 who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high  
103 school units if they have a minimum ACT composite score of  
104 twenty-eight (28) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the  
105 required grade point average and recommendations prescribed above.

106 Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be  
107 counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the  
108 average daily attendance of the public school district in which  
109 they attend high school. Any additional transportation required  
110 by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program shall  
111 be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the  
112 student. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted  
113 to the dual enrollment program shall be recorded on the college  
114 transcript at the community or junior college where the student  
115 attends classes. The transcript of such college course work may  
116 be released to another institution or used for college graduation  
117 requirements only after the student has received his high school  
118 diploma.

119 (3) The boards of trustees of the community and junior  
120 college districts are authorized to establish an early admission  
121 program under which applicants meeting all requirements prescribed  
122 in subsection (2)(a) through (c) and having a minimum ACT  
123 composite score of twenty-four (24) or the equivalent SAT score  
124 may be admitted as full-time college students if the principal or  
125 guidance counselor of the student recommends in writing that it is  
126 in the best educational interest of the student. Such

127 recommendation shall also state that the student's age will not  
128 keep him from being a successful full-time college student.  
129 Students admitted in the early admission program shall not be  
130 counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the  
131 average daily attendance of the school district in which they  
132 reside, and transportation required by a student to participate in  
133 the early admission program shall be the responsibility of the  
134 parents or legal guardians of the student. Grades and college  
135 credits earned by students admitted to the early admission program  
136 shall be recorded on the college transcript at the community or  
137 junior college where the student attends classes, and may be  
138 released to another institution or used for college graduation  
139 requirements only after the student has successfully completed one  
140 (1) full semester of course work.

141 (4) The community and junior colleges shall provide, through  
142 courses or other acceptable educational measures, the general  
143 education necessary to individuals and groups which will tend to  
144 make them capable of living satisfactory lives consistent with the  
145 ideals of a democratic society.

146 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
147 and after July 1, 2005.