

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 870

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVING A LEVEL 3 OR LOWER
2 ACCREDITATION LEVEL TO ADOPT CERTAIN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
3 REGARDING DAILY CURRICULUM, WEEKLY HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, PARENTAL
4 INVOLVEMENT, DRESS CODES, SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, PARENT-TEACHER
5 CONFERENCES AND A SCHOOL SYLLABUS; TO PROVIDE THAT ALTERNATIVE
6 SCHOOLS IN THOSE DISTRICTS MUST ADOPT THE SAME POLICIES AND
7 PROCEDURES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of every school district
10 having a Level 3 or lower accreditation rating shall adopt
11 policies and procedures regarding the daily curriculum in schools,
12 weekly homework assignments, parental involvement, dress codes,
13 school holidays, parent-teacher conferences and a school syllabus.
14 The policies and procedures must include, but not necessarily be
15 limited to, the following:

16 (a) Every child must be assigned daily homework
17 assignments;

18 (b) Every child must be taught to write in proper
19 manuscript and cursive lettering, which must be reinforced through
20 weekend homework assignments at every grade level;

21 (c) Every child must be assigned a daily reading
22 assignment;

23 (d) Every child must be assigned a daily written
24 assignment to accompany the daily reading assignment in order to
25 assess the reading comprehension level of the child;

26 (e) Every child must be assigned a minimum of five (5)
27 words per week in each subject area to learn to spell, define and
28 use in a sentence, which must be used to assess the child's
29 retention of the assignment;

30 (f) Every child must be assigned a minimum of one (1)
31 book to read per subject each month and must write a short report
32 on the subject matter of the book, which report must be used to
33 assess the child's learning ability. Children in primary grades
34 may be allowed to draw pictures, elaborate orally or use any other
35 alternative method to tell about their books;

36 (g) Every parent or guardian of a child shall
37 participate in one (1) supportive service for the school district,
38 such as assisting at the bus stop, working the concession stand
39 for an athletic event, chaperoning a school sponsored event,
40 serving in the Parent Teacher Association, or serving as a mentor,
41 resource officer or tutor;

42 (h) Every teacher shall dress in a professional manner,
43 which does not include wearing blue jeans, denim jeans or tee
44 shirts;

45 (i) Every child must be required to wear a school
46 uniform;

47 (j) The school districts shall provide for only the
48 following school holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas,
49 New Year's, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Spring Break and Good
50 Friday holidays. Permanent early release days are prohibited;

51 (k) Staff development training may not be held during a
52 regular school day; however, staff development training may be
53 offered after the regular school day has been completed. The
54 staff development training must be relevant to the teaching
55 experience and beneficial to the teacher, student and district as
56 a whole;

57 (l) Parent-teacher conferences must be held at the
58 middle of each nine-week term with the parent and a child who has
59 not mastered his or her course work for the mid-term or who has
60 demonstrated bad citizenship;

61 (m) The school district shall provide a syllabus for
62 each nine (9) weeks with the homework assignments posted for each

63 subject. The syllabus must contain an agreement that the parent
64 or guardian is required to sign stating that the parent
65 understands the child has daily homework assignments and that the
66 parent has received a document outlining the child's work
67 assignments and due dates of the assignments; and

68 (n) The school district shall post the syllabus on the
69 school district website, if available. If a student loses his or
70 her syllabus, the school district may charge a fee of not more
71 than Twenty-five Cents (25¢) per individual sheet to copy and
72 replace the document.

73 (2) Alternative school programs in school districts having a
74 Level 3 or lower accreditation rating shall adopt the same
75 policies as provided in subsection (1) of this section. Students
76 attending an alternative school must attend school for no less
77 than eight (8) hours per day and must attend school on Saturday
78 for no less than eight (8) hours per day. At alternative schools,
79 Saturday must be known as "Attitude Adjustment Day." Each
80 Saturday, the school districts shall arrange for retired military,
81 first responders, volunteer mentors, ministers, parents and any
82 other community volunteers to attend school with the alternative
83 school students and to share their skills and knowledge with the
84 students, encouraging them to become better students and citizens.
85 In addition, the school district may authorize students to
86 participate in community service programs on Saturdays to help
87 build character and concern for their own school, family,
88 neighborhood and community.

89 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
90 and after July 1, 2006.