

By: Representative Fleming

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 413

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SCHOOL TESTING RIGHT TO KNOW ACT FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF PROVIDING POLICYMAKERS AND THE PUBLIC WITH ACCURATE  
3 INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO MAKE FUTURE DECISIONS ABOUT THE  
4 DIRECTION OF EDUCATION POLICY IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "School Testing  
8 Right to Know Act."

9 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature finds that:

10 (a) The federal No Child Left Behind Act aims to  
11 dramatically increase the use and importance of primary and  
12 secondary school standardized tests.

13 (b) Standardized test scores do not assess accurately  
14 the causes of low student achievement but often distract attention  
15 from major causes of low academic performance such as poverty and  
16 the lack of resources available to meet low-income students'  
17 needs.

18 (c) When standardized test scores are released to the  
19 public, policymakers, parents and taxpayers have the right to know  
20 all relevant data relating to these scores.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act is intended to insure that information  
22 provided to policymakers and the public which will be used to make  
23 future decisions about the direction of education policy in the  
24 State of Mississippi is detailed and accurate.

25 **SECTION 4.** No agency, department, institution or political  
26 subdivision of the state or any other governmental entity within  
27 the state may release any school-by-school or district-by-district  
28 listing of primary or secondary school standardized test scores to

29 the public without simultaneously listing the following  
30 information for the same schools or districts:

31 (a) Percentage of students who qualify for free or  
32 reduced-price meals;

33 (b) Student mobility rate (the measure of students who  
34 enter or leave a school during the school year);

35 (c) Per-student expenditure by school, not including  
36 district-wide administrative costs;

37 (d) Average class size;

38 (e) The percentage of students entering a school after  
39 Grade 3 whose skills are assessed at below basic upon entering the  
40 school; and

41 (f) The percentage of students who qualify for special  
42 education services.

43 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
44 and after July 1, 2007.