

By: Representative Clark

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 507

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A
2 TRIMESTER SCHOOL YEAR PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO
3 SELECT UP TO TWELVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
4 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO REPORT TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE
5 EDUCATION COMMITTEES BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2010, ON THE RESULTS OF THE
6 PILOT PROGRAM AND THE DESIRABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A TRIMESTER
7 CALENDAR IN ALL MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD
8 TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR, WHICH MUST BE NO LESS
9 THAN 225 DAYS, FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT
10 PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE CORE CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
11 DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD
12 TO INCREASE THE ADEQUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM ALLOTMENT TO SCHOOL
13 DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION
14 37-13-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE
15 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Board of Education shall establish
18 a Trimester School Year Pilot Program to determine the feasibility
19 and desirability of implementing a trimester school year in all
20 public school districts in the state.

21 (2) During the 2007-2008 school year, the State Board of
22 Education shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation
23 of the pilot program and an application process for interested
24 school districts to apply for participation in the pilot program.
25 The board may select up to twelve (12) eligible school districts
26 in which the trimester school year calendar will be implemented.
27 In selecting participants for the program, the board shall
28 endeavor to include school districts representative of all
29 Mississippi school districts, with consideration given to factors
30 including, but not necessarily limited to, each applying school
31 district's: size; accreditation level; urban or rural nature;
32 demographic profile; and geographical location. At least one (1)
33 school district in each congressional district, as those districts

34 exist on July 1, 2007, must be selected for participation in the
35 pilot program unless no application is received by the board from
36 an eligible school district within a particular congressional
37 district.

38 (3) School districts participating in the Trimester School
39 Year Pilot Program must agree to adhere to the trimester school
40 year calendar adopted by the State Board of Education for the
41 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school years.

42 (4) Before January 1, 2010, the State Board of Education
43 shall submit a report to the Chairmen of the Education Committees
44 of the House of Representatives and Senate on the results of the
45 Trimester School Year Pilot Program. The report must include
46 recommendations on whether or not the trimester calendar should be
47 implemented on a permanent basis in all or certain public school
48 districts of the state.

49 **SECTION 2.** The State Board of Education shall establish a
50 school year calendar to be observed by those school districts
51 participating in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program. The
52 opening day of the school term must be the Tuesday immediately
53 succeeding the first Monday of September (National Memorial Day).
54 Each trimester must consist of no less than seventy-five (75) days
55 in which students and teachers are in regular attendance for
56 scheduled school work. Upon the conclusion of each trimester,
57 there must be a break of no less than fifteen (15) calendar days;
58 however, the State Board of Education may designate a total of
59 fourteen (14) days during the breaks as teacher work days or
60 in-service training days. The complete scholastic year for school
61 districts participating in the pilot program must be no less than
62 two hundred twenty-five (225) days. The State Board of Education
63 shall designate the legal holidays that may be observed in school
64 districts participating in the pilot program.

65 **SECTION 3.** (1) The core curriculum for students in Grades 4
66 through 12 in the school districts participating in the Trimester

67 School Year Pilot Program shall consist of the following five (5)
68 core courses, each consisting of a minimum of eighteen (18)
69 trimester units of developmental, content-mastery instruction:

70 (a) Language Arts -- Reading Recognition, Reading
71 Comprehension, Spelling, Grammar, Written Expression and
72 Literature;

73 (b) Math -- Math Calculations, Math Reasoning, Business
74 Math, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry and Calculus;

75 (c) Foreign Language -- Written Expression, Verbal
76 Expression and Literature;

77 (d) Social Studies:

78 (i) Grades 8 and 9 -- World History, consisting of
79 four (4) trimesters with each course following an established
80 timeline and incorporating major social, political and economic
81 issues for South and Central America, North America, the Far East,
82 the Middle East, Africa, Australia and Europe, with all courses to
83 include related geography segments;

84 (ii) Grades 10 and 11 -- American History,
85 consisting of two (2) trimesters from the Indigenous People
86 through the Civil War and two (2) trimesters from the Civil War to
87 the present; and

88 (iii) Grade 12 -- United States government and two
89 (2) trimesters of Current Political and Social Issues; and

90 (e) Science -- Earth Science, Biology, Zoology,
91 Chemistry and Physics.

92 (2) In each school in those school districts participating
93 in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program, the content area
94 teachers shall develop skill progression-based course outlines
95 identifying the primary and secondary data to be mastered. The
96 principal of the school shall collate and assimilate the
97 information into one (1) outline, which shall be forwarded to the
98 school district's central office. The local school board then
99 shall collate and assimilate the data gathered from the various

100 schools in that school district into one (1) outline to be
101 submitted to the State Department of Education. The State
102 Department of Education shall collate and assimilate the data
103 gathered from the various school districts participating in the
104 pilot program into one (1) outline. The department shall submit
105 the final outline to a panel of university and college educators
106 for revision.

107 (3) The State Department of Education shall provide
108 standardized tests for the core curriculum defined in this
109 section. Local school districts shall administer the standardized
110 tests in particular subject areas to all students in the public
111 schools on the same day, as designated by the State Department of
112 Education. In administering the tests, a classroom teacher may
113 not be permitted to monitor the testing of that teacher's
114 students. All tests must be scored by machine, and the test
115 results may be posted only in a pass or fail format.

116 (4) The State Board of Education shall establish the number
117 of hours of actual teaching which constitutes a school day in
118 those school districts participating in the Trimester School Year
119 Pilot Program. The number of hours of each school day must be
120 sufficient to satisfy the core curriculum requirements established
121 in this section.

122 **SECTION 4.** In order to sufficiently fund school districts
123 participating in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program, the
124 State Board of Education shall increase the annual funding for the
125 participating school districts under the Mississippi Adequate
126 Education Program by an amount determined by the following
127 formula: The annual allocation to the particular school district
128 under the Mississippi Adequate Education Program will be divided
129 by the average number of days that teachers and students are in
130 actual attendance in all Mississippi school districts that are not
131 participating in the pilot program. This sum, which represents
132 the Mississippi Adequate Education Program daily allotment, will

133 be multiplied by the difference between two hundred twenty-five
134 (225) and the average number of days that teachers and students
135 are in actual attendance in all Mississippi school districts that
136 are not participating in the pilot program. The result of the
137 last calculation will be added to the annual allocation to the
138 particular school district under the Mississippi Adequate
139 Education Program.

140 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-13-67, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
141 amended as follows:

142 37-13-67. Except as otherwise provided under Section 3 of
143 House Bill No. _____, 2007 Regular Session, for school districts
144 participating in the Trimester School Year Pilot Program, the
145 number of hours of actual teaching which shall constitute a school
146 day shall be determined and fixed by the board of trustees of the
147 school district at not less than five (5) hours.

148 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
149 and after July 1, 2007.