

By: Representatives Gunn, Arnold

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1417

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
2 ANNUALLY DETERMINE A UNIFORM PERCENTAGE OF ADEQUATE EDUCATION  
3 PROGRAM FUNDS WHICH MUST BE ALLOCATED TO DIRECT CLASSROOM  
4 INSTRUCTION IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO  
5 CALCULATE THE UNIFORM PERCENTAGE USING DATA FROM THE FIVE HIGHEST  
6 PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UNDER THE STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM; TO  
7 DEFINE THE TERM "DIRECT CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION"; AND FOR RELATED  
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) Before May 1 of each year, the State  
11 Department of Education shall determine the uniform percentage of  
12 adequate education program funds, as defined under Section  
13 37-151-5(q), which must be allocated by each school district to  
14 direct classroom instruction in the next succeeding fiscal year.  
15 For purposes of this calculation, the State Department of  
16 Education must utilize the most current financial data available  
17 from the five (5) school districts that are identified by the  
18 department, using the most current state assessment results under  
19 the state accreditation system, as being the highest performing  
20 districts. Subject to the requirements of this section, the  
21 department shall identify the funds, functions and objects to be



22 used in calculating the percentage of funds in each of the  
23 selected districts which is allocated to direct classroom  
24 instruction. The ratio of adequate education program funds  
25 allocated to direct classroom instruction to the total adequate  
26 education program allotment must be calculated for each school  
27 district selected under this subsection. The department then  
28 shall calculate the average of the ratios in the five (5) selected  
29 school districts, which average establishes the uniform percentage  
30 of adequate education program funds which must be allocated to  
31 direct classroom instruction in all school districts in the next  
32 fiscal year.

33 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "direct classroom  
34 instruction" means the classroom level of instruction and  
35 specifically includes the following:

36 (a) Salaries of classroom teachers who spend no less  
37 than sixty percent (60%) of each school day in scheduled classroom  
38 instruction;

39 (b) Salaries of the assistant teachers working under  
40 the teachers described under paragraph (a) of this subsection; and

41 (c) Instructional supplies used in the classroom by a  
42 teacher described under paragraph (a) of this subsection and any  
43 assistant teacher assigned to that classroom, including computers  
44 and technology.

45 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "direct classroom  
46 instruction" specifically excludes the following:



47 (a) Instructional staff support services, such as  
48 professional development and instruction and curriculum  
49 development;

50 (b) Library and media services;

51 (c) Student support services, including counseling,  
52 school nurses, health and psychological services, attendance  
53 services, school and school district administration, food  
54 services, transportation and operations and physical plant  
55 maintenance; and

56 (d) School security.

57 (4) A school district, in its discretion, may allocate a  
58 percentage of adequate education program funds to direct classroom  
59 instruction which is greater than the percentage established as  
60 the uniform percentage under subsection (1) of this section.

61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after July 1, 2014.

