

By: Senator(s) Hill, Gandy, Smith, Watson,
McDaniel, Sojourner

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2526

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT
3 OF EDUCATION SHALL TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION TO IMPLEMENT ANY COMMON
4 CORE STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS
5 INITIATIVE UNTIL THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION AND THE LEGISLATURE CONDUCT A
7 COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS AND TO
8 ESTABLISH A JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMON CORE STUDY COMMITTEE FOR THAT
9 PURPOSE; TO AMEND SECTION 37-177-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
10 CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 amended as follows:

14 37-1-3. (1) As used in this section:

15 (a) "Common core standards" refers to educational
16 standards developed for Kindergarten through Grade 12 by the
17 Common Core State Standards Initiative.

18 (b) "Cut scores" means the scores that define a
19 student's performance on an assessment, including passing, failing
20 or falling into a performance category.

21 (2) Notwithstanding anything in this section to the
22 contrary, after July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education may



23 take no further actions to implement as standards for the state or
24 direct the State Department of Education to implement any common
25 core standards developed by the Common Core State Standards
26 Initiative until the State Board of Education conducts a
27 comprehensive evaluation of the common core standards as provided
28 in this section.

29 (3) The common core standards may not be adopted under
30 subsection (1) of this section until:

31 (a) The State Board of Education has received and
32 considers:

33 (i) The department's evaluation of the common core
34 under subsection (4) of this section;

35 (ii) The final report of the legislative study
36 committee established under subsection (5) of this section;

37 (iii) The fiscal impact statement prepared by the
38 Department of Finance and Administration under subsection (6) of
39 this section; and

40 (b) The State Board of Education holds at least three
41 (3) public meetings and takes public testimony regarding the
42 adoption of common core standards after the State Board of
43 Education has received and considered the information described in
44 paragraph (a) of this subsection.

45 (4) Before July 1, 2014, the State Department of Education
46 shall provide a written evaluation of the common core standards to
47 the:



48 (a) Governor;
49 (b) State Board of Education;
50 (c) Chairperson of the legislative study committee
51 established in subsection (5) of this section.

52 The evaluation shall be provided in an electronic format.

53 (5) There is hereby established a Legislative Common Core
54 Study Committee to study issues relating to common core standards
55 or other standards. Not later than November 1, 2014, the
56 committee shall submit the committee's final report to the
57 Governor, the State Board of Education and the State Department of
58 Education. The report shall:

59 (a) Compare existing Mississippi standards with the
60 common core standards;

61 (b) Consider best practices in developing and adopting
62 the standards, seeking information from a broad range of sources,
63 including:

64 (i) Subject area teachers from elementary and
65 secondary schools in Mississippi;

66 (ii) Subject area instructors and experts from
67 postsecondary educational institutions; and

68 (iii) Any other standards the study committee
69 considers to be superior standards; and

70 (c) Evaluate the cost to the state or school districts
71 associated with implementing Partnership for Assessment of



72 Readiness for College and Careers assessment or the Smarter
73 Balanced assessment by schools.

74 The Legislative Common Core Study Committee shall consist of
75 three (3) members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant
76 Governor and three (3) members of the House of Representatives
77 appointed by the Speaker. The Chairmen of the Senate and House
78 Education Committees shall serve as co-chairmen. The first
79 meeting of the committee shall be called by the co-chairmen no
80 later than July 1, 2014, and the study committee shall hold at
81 least three (3) public meetings.

82 (6) Before September 1, 2014, the Department of Finance and
83 Administration, in consultation with the State Board of Education,
84 shall provide an opinion concerning the fiscal impact to the state
85 and school districts if the State Board of Education:

86 (a) Fully implements the common core standards; and

87 (b) Discontinues the implementation of the common core
88 standards.

89 The Department of Finance and Administration must provide its
90 opinion in an electronic format to the Governor, Legislative
91 Education Committees, and the State Board of Education.

92 (7) The department shall administer assessments under prior
93 accreditation standards during the 2014-2015 school year. The
94 State Board of Education may not require the use of the
95 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers
96 assessment or the Smarter Balanced assessment by schools until the



97 State Board of Education receives and considers the reports
98 received under subsections (1) through (6) of this section. This
99 section does not remove academic standards developed or
100 implemented by the State Board of Education before July 1, 2014.

101 (8) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
102 regulations and set standards and policies for the organization,
103 operation, management, planning, budgeting and programs of the
104 State Department of Education.

105 (a) The board is directed to identify all functions of
106 the department that contribute to or comprise a part of the state
107 system of educational accountability and to establish and maintain
108 within the department the necessary organizational structure,
109 policies and procedures for effectively coordinating such
110 functions. Such policies and procedures shall clearly fix and
111 delineate responsibilities for various aspects of the system and
112 for overall coordination of the total system and its effective
113 management.

114 (b) The board shall establish and maintain a
115 system-wide plan of performance, policy and directions of public
116 education not otherwise provided for.

117 (c) The board shall effectively use the personnel and
118 resources of the department to enhance technical assistance to
119 school districts in instruction and management therein.

120 (d) The board shall establish and maintain a central
121 budget policy.



122 (e) The board shall establish and maintain within the
123 State Department of Education a central management capacity under
124 the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Education.

125 (f) The board, with recommendations from the
126 superintendent, shall design and maintain a five-year plan and
127 program for educational improvement that shall set forth
128 objectives for system performance and development and be the basis
129 for budget requests and legislative initiatives.

130 (* * *9) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt and
131 maintain a curriculum and a course of study to be used in the
132 public school districts that is designed to prepare the state's
133 children and youth to be productive, informed, creative citizens,
134 workers and leaders, and it shall regulate all matters arising in
135 the practical administration of the school system not otherwise
136 provided for. Provided, however, that the State Board of
137 Education shall take no action regarding a statewide curriculum
138 that is not consistent with the provisions of subsections (1)
139 through (7) of this section.

140 (b) Before the 1999-2000 school year, the State Board
141 of Education shall develop personal living and finances objectives
142 that focus on money management skills for individuals and families
143 for appropriate, existing courses at the secondary level. The
144 objectives must require the teaching of those skills necessary to
145 handle personal business and finances and must include instruction
146 in the following:



- 147 (i) Opening a bank account and assessing the
148 quality of a bank's services;
- 149 (ii) Balancing a checkbook;
- 150 (iii) Managing debt, including retail and credit
151 card debt;
- 152 (iv) Completing a loan application;
- 153 (v) The implications of an inheritance;
- 154 (vi) The basics of personal insurance policies;
- 155 (vii) Consumer rights and responsibilities;
- 156 (viii) Dealing with salesmen and merchants;
- 157 (ix) Computing state and federal income taxes;
- 158 (x) Local tax assessments;
- 159 (xi) Computing interest rates by various
160 mechanisms;
- 161 (xii) Understanding simple contracts; and
- 162 (xiii) Contesting an incorrect billing statement.

163 (* * * 10) The State Board of Education shall have authority
164 to expend any available federal funds, or any other funds
165 expressly designated, to pay training, educational expenses,
166 salary incentives and salary supplements to licensed teachers
167 employed in local school districts or schools administered by the
168 State Board of Education. Such incentive payments shall not be
169 considered part of a school district's local supplement as defined
170 in Section 37-151-5(o), nor shall the incentives be considered
171 part of the local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the



172 purposes of Section 37-19-7(1). MAEP funds or any other state
173 funds shall not be used to provide such incentives unless
174 specifically authorized by law.

175 (* * *11) The State Board of Education shall through its
176 actions seek to implement the policies set forth in Section
177 37-1-2.

178 (12) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
179 implement this section.

180 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-177-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
181 amended as follows:

182 37-177-5. The State Department of Education shall establish
183 a Mississippi Reading Panel to collaborate with the State
184 Department of Education in recommending appropriate equitable
185 alternative standardized assessments and cut scores to be used to
186 determine promotion to the Fourth Grade of those Third Grade
187 students who scored at the lowest achievement level on the state
188 annual accountability assessment or who, for unforeseen
189 circumstances, were unable to take the assessment. The panel
190 should have knowledge and input in the adoption or development of
191 a universal screener for required use only in select schools most
192 in need for the leading intervention program to identify reading
193 deficiencies and determine progress. A suggestive list of no less
194 than four (4) screening assessments should be available to schools
195 not selected for the critical leading intervention program taking
196 into consideration those screening assessments already being used



197 satisfactorily in Mississippi elementary schools. * * * The panel
198 shall consist of six (6) members as follows: the State
199 Superintendent of Education, or his/her designee, who will chair
200 the committee; the Chair of the House Education Committee, or his
201 designee; the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, or his
202 designee; one (1) member appointed by the Governor; and two (2)
203 additional members appointed by the State Superintendent of
204 Education.

205 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
206 and after its passage.

