

By: Representative Hines

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 188

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COMPREHENSIVE COURSE IN MISSISSIPPI  
 2 HISTORY AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO BE TAUGHT TO ALL STUDENTS  
 3 IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL  
 4 SCHOOLS AND HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE DISCONTINUATION OF  
 5 END-OF-COURSE SUBJECT AREA TEST IN UNITED STATES HISTORY; TO AMEND  
 6 SECTIONS 37-16-7, 37-3-49, 37-15-38, 37-16-17 AND 37-35-3,  
 7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING  
 8 PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** In addition to the curriculum otherwise required  
 11 by law or the State Board of Education to be taught in the public  
 12 schools of this state, comprehensive courses in Mississippi  
 13 History and United States Government are required for all students  
 14 to be administered between Grades 9 through 12. The Mississippi  
 15 History course must provide students with an examination of the  
 16 history of the State of Mississippi from the age of discovery and  
 17 colonization to the present with particular emphasis on the  
 18 significant political, social, economic and cultural issues of the  
 19 nineteenth and twentieth centuries which have impacted the diverse  
 20 ethnic and racial populations of the state. Similarly, all  
 21 private, parochial and home-based school programs shall provide



22 the same curriculum requirements to students enrolled in Grades 9  
23 though 12, as prescribed in this section. The courses shall be  
24 taught on a semester basis and shall account as a one-half (1/2)  
25 Carnegie Unit.

26 **SECTION 2.** Beginning in the 2020 school year, the State  
27 Board of Education shall cease to require the administration of  
28 all end-of-course subject area test in United States History, and  
29 shall only require the administration of subject area tests for  
30 courses in English II, Algebra I and Biology. The State Board of  
31 Education shall adopt a policy abolishing the requirement of  
32 administration of the United States History end-of-course subject  
33 area test to all public high school students, which in previous  
34 academic years, has been required for a student to meet the  
35 requirements for a standard Mississippi high school diploma and as  
36 a factor in accountability ratings.

37 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
38 amended as follows:

39 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish  
40 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a  
41 minimum:

42 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by  
43 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of  
44 Education \* \* \*; and



45 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,  
46 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district  
47 school board.

48 ( \* \* \*2) The school board of each school district shall  
49 maintain, by school, information on high school graduation rates.  
50 High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty percent (80%)  
51 must submit a detailed plan to the \* \* \* State Department of  
52 Education to restructure the high school experience to improve  
53 graduation rates.

54 ( \* \* \*3) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in  
55 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma  
56 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

57 ( \* \* \*4) The State Board of Education may establish student  
58 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to  
59 graduation.

60 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-3-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
61 amended as follows:

62 37-3-49. (1) The State Department of Education shall  
63 provide an instructional program and establish guidelines and  
64 procedures for managing such program in the public schools within  
65 the school districts throughout the state as part of the State  
66 Program of Educational Accountability and Assessment of  
67 Performance as prescribed in Section 37-3-46. Public school  
68 districts may (a) elect to adopt the instructional program and  
69 management system provided by the State Department of Education,



70 or (b) elect to adopt an instructional program and management  
71 system which meets or exceeds criteria established by the State  
72 Department of Education for such. This provision shall begin with  
73 the courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain skills tested  
74 through the Mississippi Basic Skills Assessment Program and shall  
75 proceed through all secondary school courses mandated for  
76 graduation and all secondary school courses in the \* \* \*  
77 end-of-course testing program in the subject areas of English II,  
78 Algebra I and Biology. Other state core objectives must be  
79 included in the district's instructional program as they are  
80 provided by the State Department of Education along with  
81 instructional practices, resources, evaluation items and  
82 management procedures. Districts are encouraged to adapt this  
83 program and accompanying procedures to all other instructional  
84 areas. The department shall provide that such program and  
85 guidelines, or a program and guidelines developed by a local  
86 school district which incorporates the core objectives from the  
87 curriculum structure are enforced through the performance-based  
88 accreditation system. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
89 every effort be made to protect the instructional time in the  
90 classroom and reduce the amount of paperwork which must be  
91 completed by teachers. The State Department of Education shall  
92 take steps to insure that school districts properly use staff  
93 development time to work on the districts' instructional  
94 management plans.



95           (2) The State Department of Education shall provide such  
96 instructional program and management guidelines which shall  
97 require for every public school district that:

98           (a) All courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain  
99 skills which are tested through the Mississippi Basic Skills  
100 Assessment Program, all secondary school courses mandated for  
101 graduation, and all courses in the end-of-course testing program  
102 in the subject areas of English II, Algebra I and Biology shall  
103 include the State Department of Education's written list of  
104 learning objectives.

105           (b) The local school board must adopt the objectives  
106 that will form the core curriculum which will be systematically  
107 delivered throughout the district.

108           (c) The set of objectives provided by the State  
109 Department of Education must be accompanied by suggested  
110 instructional practices and resources that would help teachers  
111 organize instruction so as to promote student learning of the  
112 objectives. Objectives added by the school district must also be  
113 accompanied by suggested instructional practices and resources  
114 that would help teachers organize instruction. The instructional  
115 practices and resources that are identified are to be used as  
116 suggestions and not as requirements that teachers must follow.  
117 The goal of the program is to have students to achieve the desired  
118 objective and not to limit teachers in the way they teach.



119 (d) Standards for student performance must be  
120 established for each core objective in the local program and those  
121 standards establish the district's definition of mastery for each  
122 objective.

123 (e) There shall be an annual review of student  
124 performance in the instructional program against locally  
125 established standards. When weaknesses exist in the local  
126 instructional program, the district shall take action to improve  
127 student performance.

128 (3) The State Board of Education and the board of trustees  
129 of each school district shall adopt policies to limit and reduce  
130 the number and length of written reports that classroom teachers  
131 are required to prepare.

132 (4) This section shall not be construed to limit teachers  
133 from using their own professional skills to help students master  
134 instructional objectives, nor shall it be construed as a call for  
135 more detailed or complex lesson plans or any increase in testing  
136 at the local school district level.

137 (5) Districts meeting the highest levels of accreditation  
138 standards, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall be  
139 exempted from the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

140 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-15-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
141 amended as follows:



142 37-15-38. (1) The following phrases have the meanings  
143 ascribed in this section unless the context clearly requires  
144 otherwise:

145 (a) A dual enrolled student is a student who is  
146 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of  
147 higher learning while enrolled in high school.

148 (b) A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled  
149 in a community or junior college or state institution of higher  
150 learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high  
151 school and college credit for postsecondary coursework.

152 (2) A local school board, the Board of Trustees of State  
153 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community  
154 College Board shall establish a dual enrollment system under which  
155 students in the school district who meet the prescribed criteria  
156 of this section may be enrolled in a postsecondary institution in  
157 Mississippi while they are still in school.

158 (3) **Dual credit eligibility.** Before credits earned by a  
159 qualified high school student from a community or junior college  
160 or state institution of higher learning may be transferred to the  
161 student's home school district, the student must be properly  
162 enrolled in a dual enrollment program.

163 (4) **Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and**  
164 **junior college or university programs.** The Mississippi Community  
165 College Board and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
166 Higher Learning may recommend to the State Board of Education



167 admission criteria for dual enrollment programs under which high  
168 school students may enroll at a community or junior college or  
169 university while they are still attending high school and enrolled  
170 in high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in  
171 community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment  
172 programs if they meet that individual institution's stated dual  
173 enrollment admission requirements.

174 (5) **Tuition and cost responsibility.** Tuition and costs for  
175 university-level courses and community and junior college courses  
176 offered under a dual enrollment program may be paid for by the  
177 postsecondary institution, the local school district, the parents  
178 or legal guardians of the student, or by grants, foundations or  
179 other private or public sources. Payment for tuition and any  
180 other costs must be made directly to the credit-granting  
181 institution.

182 (6) **Transportation responsibility.** Any transportation  
183 required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment  
184 program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal  
185 guardian of the student. Transportation costs may be paid from  
186 any available public or private sources, including the local  
187 school district.

188 (7) **School district average daily attendance credit.** When  
189 dually enrolled, the student may be counted, for adequate  
190 education program funding purposes, in the average daily





191 attendance of the public school district in which the student  
192 attends high school.

193           (8) **High school student transcript transfer requirements.**

194 Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual  
195 credit program must be recorded on the high school student record  
196 and on the college transcript at the university or community or  
197 junior college where the student attends classes. The transcript  
198 of the university or community or junior college coursework may be  
199 released to another institution or applied toward college  
200 graduation requirements.

201           (9) **Determining factor of prerequisites for dual enrollment**

202 **courses.** Each university and community or junior college  
203 participating in a dual enrollment program shall determine course  
204 prerequisites. Course prerequisites shall be the same for dual  
205 enrolled students as for regularly enrolled students at that  
206 university or community or junior college.

207           (10) **Process for determining articulation of curriculum**  
208 **between high school, university, and community and junior college**

209 **courses.** All dual credit courses must meet the standards  
210 established at the postsecondary level. Postsecondary level  
211 developmental courses may not be considered as meeting the  
212 requirements of the dual credit program. Dual credit memorandum  
213 of understandings must be established between each postsecondary  
214 institution and the school district implementing a dual credit  
215 program.



216 (11) [Deleted]

217 (12) **Eligible courses for dual credit programs.** Courses  
218 eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited  
219 to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science  
220 courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and  
221 career and technical courses. Distance Learning Collaborative  
222 Program courses approved under Section 37-67-1 shall be fully  
223 eligible for dual credit. All courses being considered for dual  
224 credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent  
225 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer  
226 at the participating community or junior college or university in  
227 order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community  
228 or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses  
229 are eligible for semester hour credits.

230 (13) **High school Carnegie unit equivalency.** One (1)  
231 three-hour university or community or junior college course is  
232 equal to one (1) high school Carnegie unit.

233 (14) **Course alignment.** The universities, community and  
234 junior colleges and the State Department of Education shall  
235 periodically review their respective policies and assess the place  
236 of dual credit courses within the context of their traditional  
237 offerings.

238 (15) **Maximum dual credits allowed.** It is the intent of the  
239 dual enrollment program to make it possible for every eligible  
240 student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit



241 in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school  
242 student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or  
243 university credits for dual credit.

244 (16) **Dual credit program allowances.** A student may be  
245 granted credit delivered through the following means:

246 (a) Examination preparation taught at a high school by  
247 a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the  
248 secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing  
249 the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or  
250 International Baccalaureate course through which a high school  
251 student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on  
252 the end-of-course examination.

253 (b) College or university courses taught at a high  
254 school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who  
255 is an employee of the school district and approved as an  
256 instructor by the collaborating college or university.

257 (c) College or university courses taught at a college,  
258 university or high school by an instructor employed by the college  
259 or university and approved by the collaborating school district.

260 (d) Online courses of any public university, community  
261 or junior college in Mississippi.

262 (17) **Qualifications of dual credit instructors.** A dual  
263 credit academic instructor must meet the requirements set forth by  
264 the regional accrediting association (Southern Association of  
265 College and Schools). University and community and junior college



266 personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit  
267 instructors.

268 A dual credit career and technical education instructor must  
269 meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi Community  
270 College Board in the qualifications manual for postsecondary  
271 career and technical personnel.

272 (18) **Guidance on local agreements.** The Chief Academic  
273 Officer of the State Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
274 Higher Learning and the Chief Instructional Officers of the  
275 Mississippi Community College Board and the State Department of  
276 Education, working collaboratively, shall develop a template to be  
277 used by the individual community and junior colleges and  
278 institutions of higher learning for consistent implementation of  
279 the dual enrollment program throughout the State of Mississippi.

280 (19) **Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option.**  
281 A local school board and the local community colleges board shall  
282 establish a Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option  
283 Program under which potential or recent student dropouts may  
284 dually enroll in their home school and a local community college  
285 in a dual credit program consisting of high school completion  
286 coursework and a community college credential, certificate or  
287 degree program. Students completing the dual enrollment-credit  
288 option may obtain their high school diploma while obtaining a  
289 community college credential, certificate or degree. The  
290 Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall assist



291 students who have successfully completed the Mississippi Works  
292 Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option in securing a job upon the  
293 application of the student or the participating school or  
294 community college. The Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual  
295 Credit Option Program will be implemented statewide in the  
296 2012-2013 school year and thereafter. The State Board of  
297 Education, local school board and the local community college  
298 board shall establish criteria for the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit  
299 Program. Students enrolled in the program will not be eligible to  
300 participate in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular  
301 activities at the home school district. Tuition and costs for  
302 community college courses offered under the Dual Enrollment-Dual  
303 Credit Program shall not be charged to the student, parents or  
304 legal guardians. When dually enrolled, the student shall be  
305 counted for adequate education program funding purposes, in the  
306 average daily attendance of the public school district in which  
307 the student attends high school, as provided in Section  
308 37-151-7(1)(a). Any transportation required by the student to  
309 participate in the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Program is the  
310 responsibility of the parent or legal guardian of the student, and  
311 transportation costs may be paid from any available public or  
312 private sources, including the local school district. Grades and  
313 college credits earned by a student admitted to this Dual  
314 Enrollment-Dual Credit Program shall be recorded on the high  
315 school student record and on the college transcript at the



316 community college and high school where the student attends  
317 classes. The transcript of the community college coursework may  
318 be released to another institution or applied toward college  
319 graduation requirements. Except for United States History, any  
320 course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement  
321 for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is eligible for  
322 dual credit \* \* \*. Courses eligible for dual credit \* \* \* include  
323 career, technical and degree program courses. All courses  
324 eligible for dual credit shall be approved by the superintendent  
325 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer  
326 at the participating community college in order for college credit  
327 to be awarded. A community college shall make the final decision  
328 on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits and the  
329 local school superintendent, subject to approval by the  
330 Mississippi Department of Education, shall make the final decision  
331 on the transfer of college courses credited to the student's high  
332 school transcript.

333 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-16-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
334 amended as follows:

335 37-16-17. (1) Purpose. (a) The purpose of this section is  
336 to create a quality option in Mississippi's high schools for  
337 students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which shall  
338 consist of challenging academic courses and modern  
339 career-technical studies. The goal for students pursuing the  
340 career track is to graduate from high school with a standard



341 diploma and credit toward a community college certification in a  
342 career-technical field. These students also shall be encouraged  
343 to take the national assessment in the career-technical field in  
344 which they become certified.

345 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and  
346 adopt course and curriculum requirements for career track programs  
347 offered by local public school boards in accordance with this  
348 section. The Mississippi Community College Board and the State  
349 Board of Education jointly shall determine course and curriculum  
350 requirements for the career track program.

351 (2) Alternative career track; description; curriculum. (a)  
352 A career track shall provide a student with greater technical  
353 skill and a strong academic core and shall be offered to each high  
354 school student enrolled in a public school district. The career  
355 track program shall be linked to postsecondary options and shall  
356 prepare students to pursue either a degree or certification from a  
357 postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or  
358 certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate  
359 entrance into a career field. The career track shall be designed  
360 primarily for those students who are not college bound and shall  
361 provide them with alternatives to entrance into a four-year  
362 university or college after high school graduation.

363 (b) Students pursuing a career track shall be afforded  
364 the opportunity to dually enroll in a community or technical



365 college or to participate in a business internship or work-study  
366 program, when such opportunities are available and appropriate.

367 (c) Each public school district shall offer a career  
368 track program approved by the State Board of Education.

369 (d) Students in a career track program shall complete  
370 an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of  
371 courses.

372 (e) The twenty-one (21) course unit requirements for  
373 the career track shall consist of the following:

374 (i) At least four (4) English credits, including  
375 English I and English II.

376 (ii) At least three (3) mathematics credits,  
377 including Algebra I.

378 (iii) At least three (3) science credits,  
379 including one (1) unit of biology.

380 (iv) At least three (3) social studies credits,  
381 including one (1) unit of U.S. History and one (1) unit of  
382 Mississippi Studies/U.S. Government.

383 (v) At least one-half (1/2) credit in health or  
384 physical education.

385 (vi) At least four (4) credits in career and  
386 technical education courses in the dual enrollment-dual credit  
387 programs authorized under Section 37-15-38.

388 (vii) At least one (1) credit in integrated  
389 technology \* \* \*.





390 (viii) At least two and one-half (2-1/2) credits  
391 in additional electives or career and technical education courses  
392 required by the local school board, as approved by the State Board  
393 of Education. Academic courses within the career track of the  
394 standard diploma shall provide the knowledge and skill necessary  
395 for proficiency on the state subject area tests in English II,  
396 Algebra I and Biology.

397 (3) Nothing in this section shall disallow the development  
398 of a dual enrollment program with a technical college so long as  
399 an individual school district, with approval from the State  
400 Department of Education, agrees to implement such a program in  
401 connection with a technical college and the agreement is also  
402 approved by the proprietary school's commission.

403 (4) The career track program for students not pursuing a  
404 Baccalaureate Degree shall not be available to any student  
405 entering the Ninth Grade in the 2017-2018 school year or  
406 thereafter.

407 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-35-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
408 amended as follows:

409 37-35-3. (1) The board of trustees of any school district,  
410 including any community/junior college, may establish and maintain  
411 classes for adults, including general educational development  
412 classes, under the regulations authorized in this chapter and  
413 pursuant to the standards prescribed in subsection (3). The  
414 property and facilities of the public school districts may be used



415 for this purpose where such use does not conflict with uses  
416 already established.

417 (2) The trustees of any school district desiring to  
418 establish such program may request the taxing authority of the  
419 district to levy additional ad valorem taxes for the support of  
420 this program. The board of supervisors, in the case of a county  
421 school district, a special municipal separate school district, or  
422 a community/junior college district, and the governing authority  
423 of any municipality, in the case of a municipal separate school  
424 district, is authorized, in its discretion, to levy a tax not  
425 exceeding one (1) mill upon all the taxable property of the  
426 district for the support of this program. The tax shall be in  
427 addition to all other taxes authorized by law to be levied. In  
428 addition to the funds realized from any such levy, the board of  
429 trustees of any school district is authorized to use any surplus  
430 funds that it may have or that may be made available to it from  
431 local sources to supplement this program.

432 (3) (a) Any student participating in an approved High  
433 School Equivalency Diploma Option program administered by a local  
434 school district or a local school district with an approved  
435 contractual agreement with a community/junior college or other  
436 local entity shall not be considered a dropout. Students in such  
437 a program administered by a local school district shall be  
438 considered as enrolled within the school district of origin for  
439 the purpose of enrollment for minimum program funding only. Such



440 students shall not be considered as enrolled in the regular school  
441 program for academic or programmatic purposes.

442 (b) Students participating in an approved High School  
443 Equivalency Diploma Option program shall have an individual career  
444 plan developed at the time of placement to insure that the  
445 student's academic and job skill needs will be met. The  
446 Individual Career Plan will address, but is not limited to, the  
447 following:

- 448 (i) Academic/instructional needs of the student;
- 449 (ii) Job readiness needs of the student; and
- 450 (iii) Work experience program options available  
451 for the student.

452 (c) Students participating in an approved High School  
453 Equivalency Diploma Option program may participate in existing job  
454 and skills development programs or in similar programs developed  
455 in conjunction with the High School Equivalency Diploma Option  
456 program and the vocational director.

457 (d) High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may  
458 be operated by local school districts or may be operated by two  
459 (2) or more adjacent school districts, pursuant to a contract  
460 approved by the State Board of Education. When two (2) or more  
461 school districts contract to operate a High School Equivalency  
462 Diploma Option program, the school board of a district designated  
463 to be the lead district shall serve as the governing board of the  
464 High School Equivalency Diploma Option program. Transportation



465 for students placed in the High School Equivalency Diploma Option  
466 program shall be the responsibility of the school district of  
467 origin. The expense of establishing, maintaining and operating  
468 such High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may be paid  
469 from funds made available to the school district through  
470 contributions, minimum program funds or from local district  
471 maintenance funds.

472 (e) The State Department of Education will develop  
473 procedures and criteria for placement of a student in the High  
474 School Equivalency Diploma Option programs. Students placed in  
475 High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs shall have  
476 parental approval for such placement and must meet the following  
477 criteria:

478 (i) The student must be at least sixteen (16)  
479 years of age;

480 (ii) The student must be at least one (1) full  
481 grade level behind his or her ninth grade cohort or must have  
482 acquired less than four (4) Carnegie units;

483 (iii) The student must have taken every  
484 opportunity to continue to participate in coursework leading to a  
485 diploma; and

486 (iv) The student must be certified to be eligible  
487 to participate in the GED course by the school district  
488 superintendent, based on the developed criteria.



489                   (f) Students participating in an approved High School  
490    Equivalency Diploma Option program, who are enrolled in subject  
491    area courses through January 31 in a school with a traditional  
492    class schedule or who are enrolled in subject area courses through  
493    October 31 or through March 31 in a school on a block schedule,  
494    notwithstanding courses in United States History, shall be  
495    required to take the end-of-course subject area tests for those  
496    courses in which they are enrolled.

497                   **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
498    and after July 1, 2020.

