

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 254

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
 2 ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO BE KNOWN AS "A BETTER CHANCE" OR THE "ABC
 3 PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PREKINDERGARTEN INSTRUCTION
 4 THROUGHOUT THE STATE VIA THE INTERNET; TO REQUIRE THE PROGRAM TO
 5 INCLUDE CERTAIN COMPONENTS, INCLUDING THE DAILY DELIVERY OF
 6 REAL-TIME INSTRUCTION BY A LICENSED PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER; TO
 7 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
 8 REGULARLY PARTICIPATING IN THE ABC PROGRAM AND TO REPORT TO THE
 9 HOUSE AND SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES ON THE PROGRAM BEFORE
 10 JANUARY 1, 2026; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Department of Education shall
 13 establish and implement a program to be known as "A Better Chance"
 14 or the "ABC Program," the purpose of which is to make
 15 prekindergarten instruction available to students and their
 16 families or caregivers throughout the state. Beginning with the
 17 2024-2025 school year, the program of instruction must be
 18 delivered via the Internet and must consist of daily
 19 age-appropriate instruction and activities, including downloadable
 20 educational materials, for children and their parents based on the
 21 Mississippi Prekindergarten Curriculum.



22 (2) The ABC Program must include a daily period of real-time
23 instruction during which a licensed prekindergarten teacher
24 delivers instruction via the Internet. The department shall
25 determine the duration of the period of real-time instruction. In
26 order to afford parents and caregivers the greatest opportunity to
27 avail children of the prekindergarten instruction, the daily
28 lessons and activities presented during the real-time period of
29 instruction must be scheduled for no less than three (3) different
30 times each school day. At all other times, the period of
31 instruction must be available on the ABC Program's webpage for
32 replay.

33 (3) The department shall develop a method to determine the
34 number of children throughout the state who regularly participate
35 in the ABC Program and to assess the progress being made by those
36 children. Before January 1, 2026, the department shall submit a
37 report to the Education Committees of the House and Senate on the
38 success of the ABC Program.

39 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
40 and after July 1, 2024.

