



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 8, 2024

The bill numbers are hyperlinked for quick access. If you have questions, please contact Holly Spivey at hspivey@mdek12.org.

CONFIRMATIONS

[SN40](#) - Dr. Richard Lancing (Lance) Evans, New Albany, Mississippi, State Superintendent of Public Education, term beginning July 1, 2024.

Appointment confirmed 4/4/24

[SN44](#) - Glen V. East, Gulfport, Mississippi, State Board of Education as the School Administrator, nine year term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2032.

Appointment confirmed 4/3/24

[SN82](#) - Michael Anthony (Mike) Pruitt, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Mississippi State Board of Education, term effective immediately and will expire June 30, 2031.

Appointment confirmed 4/18/24

[SN96](#) - James Matthew (Matt) Mayo, Flowood, Mississippi, State Board of Education, remainder of a nine year term effective March 26, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, representing the First Supreme Court District, vice Dr. Angela S. Bass.

Appointment confirmed 4/25/24

[SN105](#) - Billye Jean Stroud, New Albany, Mississippi, State Board of Education to represent the Third Supreme Court District, remainder of a nine-year term beginning upon Senate confirmation and ending June 30, 2030, vice Karen J. Morgan Elam.

Appointment confirmed 4/25/24

HOUSE EDUCATION BILL SUMMARY

HB1194 – To authorize the State Department of Education to report aggregate data concerning public school expulsions which does not disclose students personally identifiable information.

- Amends code section 37-15-6 to authorize MDE to report aggregate data that does not disclose any personally identifiable information.
- This change will allow MDE to respond to more data requests about expulsions, while still protecting individual student information.
- The existing law prohibits MDE from reporting on the number of expulsions at the state, district, or school level. MDE is required to report this information in our report card by Federal law, but we cannot fill any other data requests for the information.
- **Approved by Governor 4/20/24**

HB1669 – To revise the qualification for an assistant teacher to include a high school diploma/GED and a Child Development Associate credential, a Montessori certification, or an equivalent certification.

- Amends section 37-21-3 to revise the qualifications for an assistant teacher to include a high school diploma/GED and a child development associate credential, a Montessori certification, or an equivalent certification.
- This language addition will help with the shortage of qualified assistant teachers serving in this capacity.
- Some of the ELC's are struggling to find assistant teachers with an AA degree. There are people that would qualify to be an assistant if the language in the was changed.
- The proposed language in the technical amendment is the current requirements in the other funded pre-K programs in the state. The other prek programs do not have as much trouble finding qualified assistant teachers.
- **Approved by Governor 4/20/24**

HB1696 – An act to provide for the administrative transition of school districts that have been placed into the Mississippi Achievement School District into Districts of Transformation.

- Repeals Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-17 -standalone Mississippi Achievement School District (MASD)
- Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-6: Consolidates/Combines MASD concepts into Districts of Transformation (DOT)
 - Utilizes the MASD language for eligibility based on school district's achievement/performance
 - Three paths for Districts of Transformation
 - 1) Extreme emergency situation which includes full investigative audit report brought before the Commission on School Accreditation, recommendation to the State Board of Education, and recommendation to the Governor requesting declaration of a state of emergency (already in law)
 - 2) Folds in the MASD option for a District of Transformation based on student achievement/performance, which only requires SBE action because it is based on data. Eliminates the State of Emergency step currently in law.

- 3) Separates option for DOT eligibility based solely on financial circumstances (serious lack of financial resources in a district), with only SBE action required.
 - Provides transition year for the two current MASD districts to transition and separate into two DOTs
 - Provides an extra year of interim superintendent in place as a consultant when a district returns to local control to aid in transition of the new board working alongside the new superintendent
 - Removes recall language (no longer elected superintendents), and removes recall language of board (SBE abolishes board)
 - Removes the MS Recovery School District (not utilized/implemented)
- Miss. Code Ann. § 37-17-13
 - Removes option of elected board members following return to local control
 - Also includes parallel language where there is an extra year of interim superintendent in place as a consultant when a district returns to local control to aid in transition of the new board working alongside the new superintendent.
- **Approved by Governor 4/25/24**

HB346 – An act to establish the Seizure Safe Schools Act.

- Puts a seizure action plan in place for students with epilepsy. Parents or guardians will work with the school on the action plan.
- Beginning July 1, 2025, the local school board shall have at least one employee at each school who has met the training requirements necessary to administer or assist with seizure rescue medication.
- Good Samaritan clause in place.
- Epilepsy Foundation will work with MDE to house free videos for training to districts.
- **Due from Governor 5/13/24**

HB765 – Extend the repealer on the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act.

- Included Winter/Reed teacher loan repayment program language and extended the repealer. Includes additional awards if funds are available.
- Extend repealer on MS Critical Teacher Shortage Act.
- Allows for local school boards to permit the use of motor vehicles other than buses when the transportation is for trips to and from school sites or for school-related functions and activities; the vehicle must be designed to transport fewer than 16 students and which does not require a CDL with a passenger endorsement.
- Allows a retired teacher with 30 years or retired teacher with 25 years to come back to classroom to teach for 5 years. Eligible to receive up 125% of average salary at time of retirement. Half goes to teacher and half goes to PERS.
- **Due from Governor 5/10/24**

HB1037 – To revise the process for state agencies to avoid or limit the need for any additional deficit or supplemental appropriations (PEER Bill)

- Deficit Appropriation Prevention Act

- Revises the process for state agencies to avoid or limit the need for any additional, deficit, or supplemental appropriations by requiring the agency to use a standardized request for promulgated by the Legislative Budget Office and DFA within 15 days of this determination.
- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/17/24**

HB1229 – An act to bring forward sections which are the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act for purposes of amendment.

- Added repealer
- To qualify to participate in the program, a parent/guardian must certify to MDE that the student has been accepted into an eligible school qualified to provide services or provide services addressing the student’s IEP.
- The waitlist shall only include students who have certified to MDE that the student has been accepted into an eligible school qualified to provide services or provide services addressing the student’s IEP.
- The application must include certification that the student has been accepted into an eligible school qualified to provide services or provide services addressing the student’s IEP.
- Eligible schools must report student performance on AP examinations and any exam related to college admission.
- Eligible schools must report student graduation rates and, if known, college acceptance rates.
- The certification of an eligible school stating the student has been accepted into the eligible school qualified to provide services or provide services addressing the student’s IEP must be received by MDE before the ESA is reimbursed to the eligible student.
- MDE will develop a uniform reporting format for eligible schools to use when submitting assessment results.
- **Due from Governor 5/13/24**

HB1341 – To clarify the school enrollment choices of children whose parents are active members of the United States Armed Forces or civilian military personnel.

- Clarifies school enrollment choices of children whose parents/legal guardians are active military members. Children may enroll and attend the school district and school campus of their choosing, regardless of the residence of the child.
- Children whose parents/legal guardians are civilian military personnel and reside on a military base may enroll and attend the school district and school campus of their choosing, regardless of the residence of the child.
- A school district is not required to provide transportation, and a student can only transfer one time in a year. The school board may deny the transfer request if there is a lack of capacity.
- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/20/24**

HB1450 – An act entering the state of Mississippi into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact for the purpose of facilitating the mobility of teachers across member states to the compact.

- Facilitates the mobility of teachers across the member states with the goal of supporting teachers through a new pathway to licensure.
- Allows active duty military spouses to receive teaching license if it is not unencumbered.

- Allows the state to join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.
- Establishes a framework that expedites and enhances a teacher’s ability to move across state lines.
- Provides for the membership of the Commission.
- **Due from Governor 5/13/24**

HB4130 – An act to create the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.

- Created the Mississippi Student Funding Formula to replace MAEP.
- This will go into effect on July 1, 2024.
- The formula includes a base cost formula, an inflation factor, an equity component, and weights for poverty, SPED, ELL, etc...
- Provides an additional \$230M in education funding.
- MDE will work with the Legislature to provide a report on the formula prior to the 2025 Legislative session.
- **Due from Governor 5/8/24**

HB1823 – Department of Education Appropriation.

- **Due from Governor 5/13/24**

SENATE EDUCATION BILL SUMMARY

SB2246 – To make a technical change to the provisions that establish the preschool reporting requirement for special education students to ensure the reporting of all ages of preschool children.

- Amends code section 37-151-81 to make a change to the provisions that establish the preschool reporting requirement for special education students to ensure the reporting of all ages of preschool children.
- Special education students enrolled in preschool range from the ages of 3-5. The existing law that specifies only 3- and 4-year-olds means that preschool enrollment reporting is restricted to only students of that age.
- It is more likely to have exceptional/special education students in preschool who are 5 years old due to delayed starts in their educations, so that’s another reason to use the term “preschool” rather than “3- and 4-year-olds”.
- **Approved by Governor 4/15/24**

SB2232 – To provide for the election of school board members in the Newton Municipal School District beginning with the November 2024 election.

- Requires election of the board of trustees by population of the school district.
- **Due from Governor 5/10/24**

SB2339 – To provide that the State Department of Education shall develop a curriculum related to the study of sign language which shall count as an academic credit for foreign languages for the purposes of high school graduation requirements.

- Requires the SBE to develop a curriculum related to the study of sign language.

- Any class developed by the board as an academic credit for foreign languages for the purpose of graduation requirements.
- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/15/24**

SB2349 – An act to require school boards and charter schools to support, adopt and implement a cardiac response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents.

- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/19/24**

SB2470 – To move the back-to-school sales tax holiday from the last Friday in July to the second Friday in July.

- Also extends the holiday by one day to Sunday at midnight.
- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/22/24**

SB2556 – To require the Department of Education to provide certain data metrics relating to achievement and non-achievement effects of the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013.

- Amends section 37-21-51 to require MDE to provide certain data metrics relating to achievement and non-achievement effects of the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 to better measure program outcomes.
- These include the following: Kindergarten readiness, English language arts proficiency in grades 3-8, math proficiency in grades 3-8, science proficiency in grades 5 and 8, chronic absenteeism, disciplinary incidents, graduation rate, college enrollment, grade retention, and special education services.
- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/17/24**

SB2572 – To allow proxy participation in meetings of the State Workforce Investment Board to meet a quorum.

- **APPROVED BY GOVERNOR 4/17/24**

SB2681 – To expand the Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students with Dyslexia Program by making Certified Academic Language Therapists (CALT) eligible to be employed by school districts to provide dyslexia services.

- **BECAME LAW WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE OF THE GOVERNOR 4/20/24**

SB2695 – To provide that the school board of any school district maintaining a secondary school shall establish and maintain driver education and training programs for pupils enrolled in the secondary schools in that district.

- Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the school board of any school district maintaining a secondary school shall establish and maintain a driver education and training program for pupils enrolled in the secondary school in that district.
- The Superintendent and the DPS Commissioner will prepare a budget and fiscal report for the Legislature prior to July 1, 2025.
- A driver's education student shall not be required to possess a learner's permit or driver's license while the students is under the direct supervision of an instructor.

- DPS shall establish a driver program to be taught throughout the state and made available for home school students and adults who have not otherwise taken a driver's education course.
- **Due from Governor 5/10/24**

SB2698 – An act to create the Cyber Security Review Board.

- Board shall be responsible for ensuring a collaborative effort to address cybersecurity threats to the state.
- Requires the board to produce a cybersecurity report and present it to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, and Technology Committee Chairs for the Senate and House.
- Requires the board to create a list of best cybersecurity practices.
- **APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR ON 4/8/24**