



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FINAL

May 8, 2023

All education bills have been approved by the Governor and will take effect July 1, 2023. Please be sure to review bills with your staff to ensure proper implementation. As always, MDE will communicate guidance where needed on specific bills. The bill numbers are hyperlinked for quick access. If you have questions, please contact Holly Spivey at hspivey@mdek12.org.

HOUSE EDUCATION BILL SUMMARY

[HB817](#)

Early Learning Collaborative; increase the minimum funding levels.

- An act to amend section 37-21-51, Mississippi code of 1972, to increase the minimum funding levels for each student enrolled in full-day early learning collaboratives to \$2,500.00 per student, and half-day early learning collaboratives to \$1,250.00 per student.
- **Approved by Governor 4/17/23**

[HB1173](#)

EEF Procurement Cards; authorize issuance to eligible charter school teachers.

- An act to amend sections 31-7-9 and 37-61-33, Mississippi code of 1972, to authorize MDE to provide EEF procurement cards or credentials for a digital solution to charter school teachers.
- Amends section 37-28-55, Mississippi code of 1972, in conformity.
- **Approved by Governor 3/22/23**

[HB1264](#)

School districts; authorize to provide feminine hygiene products for female students in Grades 6-12.

- An act to authorize school districts to make feminine hygiene products available, at no cost to students, in the bathrooms or offices of the school nurse for students in grades 6-12.
- **Approved by Governor 3/28/23**

[HB1315](#)

Pornographic online and digital/resources for K-12 students; prohibit.

- An act to regulate pornographic media exposure to children in K-12.
- Regulate digital and online resources provided by K-12 vendors.
- **Approved by Governor 4/18/23**

[HB1390](#)

Abstinence education; delete repealer on school board requirement to adopt a policy on abstinence-only or abstinence-plus.

- An act to amend 37-13-171, Mississippi code of 1972, to delete the repealer on the requirement for school boards to adopt a policy on the implementation of abstinence-only or abstinence-plus education into the curriculum.
- Adds sexual risk avoidance education as an additional policy for curriculum requirements.
- Changes antiquated language.
- **Approved by Governor 4/19/23**

[HB1613](#)

Appropriation; Department of Education.

- Total K-12 funding is approximately \$3 billion.
- \$240 million was provided for the second year of the teacher pay raise.
- Includes \$2,975,000 for Detention Centers.
- \$100,000,000 to distribute to public school districts and charter schools based on average daily enrollment. These funds may be spent on any expenditures necessary to operate a public school district or charter school excluding salary increases for superintendents, assistant superintendents, or principals.
- \$1.4M increase for new CTE programs and \$1.6M for additional industry certifications.
- \$1.4M for Charter School Authorizer Board (moved from IHL to MDE)
- \$3.2M reappropriated to MSIS.
- **Approved by Governor 4/20/23**

SENATE EDUCATION BILL SUMMARY

[SB2053](#)

Deficit Prevention Act; require state agencies to notify certain officials when likelihood of a deficit exists.

- An act to create the "Deficit Prevention Act".
- Requires state agencies, departments, and institutions to notify the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees within 15 days of a determination that the agency may face a deficit for the current fiscal year.
- Requires state agencies to work with the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance and Administration to develop a plan to avoid or limit any deficit.
- **Approved by Governor 4/13/23**

[SB2079](#)

The Mississippi School Protection Act; to create.

- An act to create new section 45-9-181, Mississippi code of 1972, to enact the Mississippi School Safety Guardian Act.
- Establishes the school safety guardian training program within the Office of Homeland Security.
- Allows the school board to establish a school safety guardian program.
- Provides civil immunity under certain circumstances for school safety guardians who comply with the act.
- Exempts the identity of school safety guardians from public disclosure.
- Provides minimum requirements for the training program.
- **Approved by Governor 4/11/23**

[SB2164](#)

Real property owned by school districts; allow to be sold for development.

- An act to amend section 37-7-473, Mississippi code of 1972, to provide that a school board may convey, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property for residential, mixed-use, or other developments.
- **Approved by Governor 3/14/23**

[SB2346](#)

Material harmful to minors; provide for liability for any entity that distributes on the internet without age verification.

- An act to regulate pornographic media exposure to children and to provide liability for commercial entities that do not use reasonable age verification methods to protect children from access to inappropriate content.
- **Approved by Governor 4/18/23**

[SB2360](#)

Agricultural high schools; revise board membership.

- An act to amend 37-27-7, Mississippi code of 1972, to revise the board membership of agricultural high schools.
- The county superintendent shall serve as an ex officio nonvoting member.
- **Approved by Governor 3/14/23**

[SB2420](#)

Public Funds Offender Registry; create.

- An act to create a public registry of offenders whose crimes involved the embezzlement or misappropriation of public funds and prohibits the state, any county or municipality or any other political subdivision hiring individuals listed on the registry for any position in accounting, a treasury, a registrar's office or in any office where monies are collected or received directly from rate or fee payers.
- Directs the Department of Public Safety to create the registry.
- **Approved by Governor 3/14/23**

[SB2485](#)

Early Intervention Act for Infants and Toddlers; add certain individuals to definition of qualified personnel.

- An act to amend section 41-87-5, Mississippi code of 1972, to revise the definition of qualified personnel who provide early intervention services for infants and toddlers.
- "Qualified Personnel" for infants and toddlers includes those who hold a degree in Human Development and Family Science or Child and Family Science with a concentration in child development and licensure in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.
- **Approved by Governor 3/14/23**

[SB2487](#)

Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program; establish.

- An act to create the "Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act of 2023" to be administered by the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.
- Provides a scholarship for students enrolling in dual enrollment/dual credit courses at participating colleges and universities.
- Institutions participating in the program will be reimbursed at the rate of 40% of the average community college credit hour tuition for the current academic year.
- Students may take up to 6 credit hours of dual enrollment under this program prior to high school graduation.
- Students may take additional hours, but they will not be funded by the scholarship.
- **Approved by Governor 4/19/23**

[SB2586](#)

Computer science curriculum; clarify terminology to specify who may provide instruction in.

- An act to amend section 37-13-205, Mississippi code of 1972, to revise the definition of terminology related to the offering of instruction under provisions of the Mississippi Computer Science and Cyber Education Equality Act.
- "Offer" means providing instruction with appropriately endorsed teachers, for any computer science course which awards a Carnegie unit. At the elementary level, instruction may be offered by a licensed teacher or paraprofessional who is under the guidance or supervision of a licensed teacher, and who has received training for computer science instruction approved by the State Department of Education:
- "Paraprofessional" consists of school employees who support instructional delivery and are deemed to be qualified and have received the professional learning opportunities to perform the job functions associated with providing instruction.
- Paraprofessionals are included in the annual training.
- Amend section 37-13-211, Mississippi code of 1972, to conformity.
- **Approved by Governor 4/17/23**

[SB2615](#)

Contract personnel; authorize to purchase base plan of the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan.

- An act to amend section 25-15-3 and 25-9-120, Mississippi code of 1972, to authorize contract workers employed by the state or other government entities to purchase the base plan of the State and School Employees' Health Insurance Plan.
- Contract personnel who work at least 130 hours per month are eligible to purchase the insurance plan.
- **Approved by Governor 3/21/23**

[SB2749](#)

School board members; increase pay.

- An act to amend section 37-6-13, Mississippi code of 1972, to increase the compensation of school board members based on the school districts' enrollment.
- School board members will receive a pay raise between \$4,000 and \$6,000 depending on the size of the district.
- **Approved by Governor 4/17/23**

[SB2728](#)

Statewide master agreements and utilization of information technology acquisitions made by other entities; authorize.

- An act to amend section 25-53-5, Mississippi code of 1972, to authorize the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services to use statewide master agreements and to use new technologies such as cloud computing.
- **Approved by Governor 3/14/23**

[SB2751](#)

Sixteenth section lands; no law, ordinance or regulation shall prohibit school districts from using for educational facilities.

- An act to amend section 29-3-132, Mississippi code of 1972, to provide that no law, ordinance or regulation shall prohibit, restrict or interfere with school districts' use of sixteenth section lands for the construction and operation of educational or extracurricular facilities.
- **Approved by Governor 3/14/23**

[SB2812](#)

Board for administration of certain failing school district; extend date of repeal.

- An act to amend section 37-17-13, Mississippi code of 1972, to extend the date of repeal on the provision authorizing the state board of education to appoint a new five-member board for the administration of a failing school district.
- Extends the repealer to July 1, 2026.
- **Approved by Governor 4/17/23**