



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 5, 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.

Referred to Senate Education Committee 3/11/24

HOUSE EDUCATION

[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.
- [HB1194 passed the House \(Y- 103/N – 7\)](#)
- [Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24](#)

[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.
- [HB1669 passed the House \(Y – 118/N – 0\)](#)
- [Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24](#)

[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.
- [HB1696 passed the House \(Y – 119/N – 0\)](#)
- [Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24](#)

BILLS TO WATCH:

HB297 – An act to bring forward code sections for the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services. [Passed the House \(Y-118/N-0\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/2/24

HB346 – An act to establish the Seizure Safe Schools Act. [Passed the House \(Y- 120/N-0\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24

HB595 – An act to authorize school principals to permit the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to speak with students about civic involvement and their participation. [Passed the House \(Y-112/N-4\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24

HB765 – extend the repealer on the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Act. [Passed the House \(Y-121/N-0\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24

HB1037 – To revise the process for state agencies to avoid or limit the need for any additional deficit or supplemental appropriations (PEER Bill) Passed both Chambers and returned for enrolling 4/4/24

HB1192 – An act to bring forward code sections relating to Districts of Innovation and MS Virtual Public School Program for the purpose of possible amendments. [Passed the House \(Y-79/N-39\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24 and Senate Appropriations 4/2/24

HB1229 – An act to bring forward sections which are the Equal Opportunity for Students with Special Needs Act for purposes of amendment. [Passed the House \(Y-118/N-0\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/2/24

HB1341 – To clarify the school enrollment choices of children whose parents are active members of the United States Armed Forces or civilian military personnel. [Passed the House \(Y-113/N-1\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24

HB1379 – An act to create “The Students Safe At School Act.” [Passed the House \(Y-119/N-0\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24 and Senate Appropriations Committee 4/2/24

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. [Passed the House \(Y-118/N-0\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/1/24 and Senate Appropriations Committee 4/2/24

HB1683 – Revise to expand opportunity for establishment of charter schools. [Passed the House \(Y-77/N-39\)](#) Passed the Senate Education Committee 4/2/24

HB1823 – Department of Education Appropriation. [Passed the House \(Y-119/N- 0\)](#) Referred to Senate Appropriations

[HB1982](#) – Provide funding to local law enforcement agencies to create the Mississippi School Resource Officers School Safety Act (MSROSS ACT) [Passed the House \(Y-120/N- 0\)](#)

[HB1988](#) – Increase the amount of tax credits that may be allocated under the Children’s Promise Act; bring forward various tax credit sections of law. [Passed the House \(Y-101/N- 1\)](#)

SENATE EDUCATION

[SB2245](#) – **To authorize the Department of Education to report aggregate data that does not disclose any personally identifiable information of students.**

- 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.
- [SB2245 passed the Senate \(Y- 52/N- 0\)](#)
- [Passed the House Education Committee 3/27/24](#)

[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”.
- **[Passed both Chambers and returned for enrolling 4/5/24](#)**

[SB2407](#) – **To revise the educational and certification requirements of assistant teachers.**

- 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.
- [SB2407 passed the Senate \(Y-51/N-0\)](#)
- [Passed the House Education Committee 3/27/24](#)

[SB2693](#) – To provide the procedure by which the State Board of Education may place a failing school or school district into a District of Transformation.

- Districts that are placed into a District of Transformation are eligible to return to local control when the district has attained a “C” rating or higher for three consecutive years.
- Provides for a timeline for Yazoo and Humphreys to transition into the District of Transformation.
- (See notes for HB1696)
- [SB2693 passed the Senate \(Y-52/N-0\)](#)
- [Passed the House Education Committee 4/2/24](#)

BILLS TO WATCH:

[SB2062](#) – An act to enact the Artificial Intelligence in Education Task Force Act for the purpose of evaluating potential applications of artificial intelligence in K-12 and higher education and to develop policy recommendations. [Passed the Senate \(Y-43/N-2\)](#) [Passed the House Education Committee 3/27/24](#)

[SB2169](#) – To provide that no school district shall reduce the local supplement or pay an individual assistant teacher less than the state minimum salary in a year in which the state minimum salary is increased. [Passed the Senate \(Y-52/N-0\)](#) [Passed the House Education Committee 4/2/24](#)

[SB2232](#) – To provide for the election of school board members in the Newton Municipal School District beginning with the November 2024 election. [Passed both Chambers](#)

[SB2332](#) – To revise the MAEP funding formula to provide that for each fiscal year between the recalculation of the base student cost, the base student cost shall be increased by an amount equal to 25% of the base student cost. [Passed the Senate \(Y-49/N-0\)](#) [Returned for Concurrence 3/22/24](#)

[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. [Passed both Chambers and returned for enrolling 4/5/24](#)

[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. [Passed the Senate \(Y-52/N-0\)](#) [Passed both Chambers](#)

[SB2470](#) – To move the back-to-school sales tax holiday from the last Friday in July to the second Friday in July. [Returned for concurrence 4/4/24](#)

[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. [Passed both Chambers and returned for enrolling 4/5/24](#)

[SB2572](#) – To allow proxy participation in meetings of the State Workforce Investment Board in order to meet a quorum. [Passed both Chambers and returned for enrolling 4/4/24](#)

[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. [Passed the Senate \(Y-52/N-0\)](#) [Passed the House Education Committee 3/27/24](#)

[SB2682](#) – Extend the repealer on the MS Critical Teacher Shortage Act of 1998. [Passed both Chambers](#)

SB2684 – To require the Department of Education to aid school districts in creating technology and disaster recovery plans. [Passed the Senate \(Y-51/N-0\)](#) Passed the House Education Committee

SB2689 – An act to require the discontinuation of end-of-course subject area testing in public high schools for 11th and 12th grades. Passed both Chambers

SB2690 - Set certain school accreditation rating requirements for renewal of charter schools. [Passed the Senate \(Y-49/N-2\)](#) Passed the House Education Committee

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. [Passed the Senate \(Y-52/N-0\)](#) Held on a motion to reconsider.

SB2698 – An act to create the Cyber Security Review Board. DUE FROM THE GOVERNOR ON 4/8/24