



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

July 9, 2025

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

CONFIRMATIONS

[SN1](#) – William Orton (Bill) Jacobs, Brookhaven, Mississippi, State Board of Education, term effective July 1, 2024, and will end on June 30, 2033.

Appointment confirmed 3/19/25

[SN12](#) – James E. (Jay) Carney, II, Tupelo, Mississippi, Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board to represent the Third Supreme Court District, three year term effective June 3, 2024, and ending August 31, 2026, vice Lee Durrett.

Appointment confirmed 4/2/25

[SN96](#) – Erin Michelle Meyer, Madison, Mississippi, Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board, term effective March 1, 2025, for the balance of a three year term ending August 30, 2027.

Appointment confirmed 3/19/25

HOUSE EDUCATION BILL SUMMARY

[HB246](#) – To authorize a local school board of a certain school district to extend the long-term lease of a holder of 16th section land, which is free of any outstanding financial obligation with less than 30 years remaining on the original term.

- Amends code section 29-3-29 to provide an exception to the reservation of minerals in, on and under certain 16th section lands conveyed for industrial development.
- Amends code section 57-75-37 to authorize the sale of certain 16th section mineral interests to the enterprises owning or operating certain projects, or to authorize the perpetual waiver of the right to use the surface of such 16th section lands for exploration or production of minerals.
- **Approved by Governor 4/10/25**

[HB809](#) – To clarify the school enrollment choices of children or active duty members of the United States Armed Forces.

- This bill amends Section 37-15-29 to expand and clarify school enrollment options for children of certain military and civilian personnel.
- The bill clarifies that the definition of the term "active duty" and "Active Guard and Reserve duty" refer to full-time duty under specified U.S. Code provisions, excluding inactive duty training and specifies the required documentation.
- Allows children of parents or legal guardians on active duty or Active Guard and Reserve duty (excluding inactive duty training) with the U.S. Armed Forces to enroll in any school district and campus of their choosing, irrespective of residence.
- **Approved by Governor 4/17/25**

HB962 – To reenact sections 37-69-1 through 37-69-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, which are the Energy Academy Act that authorizes the Vicksburg-Warren and Claiborne County School Districts to partner with a nuclear facility.

- Reenact code sections 37-69-1 through 37-69-7 that allow for the Vicksburg-Warren and Claiborne County School Districts to partner with a nuclear facility, Warren County, and the State for the establishment of an Energy High School.
- Creates a code section 37-69-9 to extend the date of the repealer on the "Energy Academy Act," while also amending Section 5, Chapter 482, Laws of 2019, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 382, Laws of 2022, to remove the repealer language on the "Energy Academy Act" from the effective date section of the enabling legislation.
- **Approved by Governor 3/12/25**

HB1066 – Amend the “Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children” for the purpose of correcting the reference to a statutory provision of the United States Code that addresses active duty orders.

- This bill amends code section 37-135-31 to correct references to specific chapters in the United States Code that pertain to active duty orders for National Guard and Reserve members.
- The original text referenced "10 USC, Sections 1209 and 1211". The amendment changes this to "10 USC, Chapters 1209 and 1211," accurately pointing to the relevant chapters in the United States Code.
- **Approved by Governor 3/12/25**

HB1129 – An act to provide that public school districts that received a loan from the educational facilities revolving loan fund that has not been repaid in full before the effective date of this act shall make repayments of the loan.

- This bill authorizes DFA to receive repayments on approved loans from the Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund Program that was repealed on July 1, 2024.
- The MDE is required to provide DFA with all Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund program terms of repayment and balances owed from school districts.
- DFA will deposit those repayments into the Education Enhancement Fund.
- If a school district is in arrears on loan repayments, MDE is required to remit the amount owed to DFA and to withhold that amount from future payments of total funding formula funds to the school district.

- The State Treasurer, in conjunction with the state Fiscal Officer, is directed to transfer to the Education Enhancement Fund all remaining funds in the Educational Facilities Revolving Loan Fund.
- **Approved by Governor 3/28/25**

HB1186 – Require natural gas pipe testing in school facilities.

- This bill requires all K-12 schools, public and private, to annually perform a pressure test on the natural gas piping system in school facilities, beginning in 2026.
- The results of the test must be reported to the school's natural gas supplier before the beginning of each school year unless a school operates on a year-round calendar, in which case the test must be performed and results reported before July 1.
- The results of the annual test in public schools and other schools accredited by the State Board of Education must also be reported to the State Department of Education. If a leakage in a school facility is identified, the testing firm or individual must report the leakage to the local school board, as well as the department, or to the person responsible for a nonpublic school.
- Section 8 of the bill provides that before January 1, 2026, the Public Service Commission shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the school natural gas pressure testing requirements, which will be applicable beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.
- **Approved by Governor 3/12/25**

HB42 – Department of Education Appropriation.

- \$2,974,855,801 in FY26 funding for school districts and charter schools, fully funding the Mississippi Student Funding Formula (MSFF).
- The total includes funding for the following: Pre-K through 12th grade instruction, Health insurance, and PERS contribution increases.
- \$2,165,290 for a synchronous instructional project.
- \$3,500,000 for Mississippi Teacher Residency program.
- \$2,000,000 increase for ESA program
- **Approved by Governor 6/17/25**

SENATE EDUCATION BILL SUMMARY

SB2177– Modify the description of vocational education programs eligible for payments out of state appropriations.

- This bill amends Section 37-31-13 to expand the availability of payments from state appropriations to school districts for extended contracts for vocational agriculture education services and other related vocational education services contributing to economic development.
- Under current law, such payments are available only to high schools whose teachers of vocational programs are responsible for certain designated programs of instruction during the months between [the](#) academic years.
- The amendment makes the payments available when the designated programs of instruction take place during the days or weeks between academic years or, for school districts having adopted the extended school year calendar, between academic quarters.
- **Approved by Governor 3/18/25**

SB2181– Public Records Act; exempt school district test security plans for administration of the Statewide Student Assessment Program.

- This bill amends code section 37-11-51 to exempt school district test security plans for the administration of the Statewide Student Assessment Program from the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983.
- **Approved by Governor 4/10/25**

SB2247– 16th section land; authorize local school board to grant an extension to holder of a long-term lease in good standing.

- This bill amends code section 29-3-63 to authorize the school board of the Hattiesburg Public School District to grant the holder of a valid 99-year lease, which is free of any outstanding financial obligation and has less than 30 years remaining on the original term, an extension for no more than 25 years, on terms acceptable to the school board.
- **Approved by Governor 3/7/25**