

## Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE): 2026 Legislative Bill Tracker

Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
HB 389	Student enrollment; require automobile registration as proof of residency	Rep. Kimberly Remak	Requires a current, valid Mississippi automobile registration issued in the name of the parent or legal guardian with the residential address of the student for school enrollment purposes. If the parent/guardian does not own a vehicle, they will be required to sign an affidavit stating such.	Passed House Education; passed House
HB 517	"MS Charter School Act of 2913"; bring forward provisions related to	Rep. Randy Boyd	Brings forward the sections of state law governing charter schools for possible amendment. Reverse repealer added in House Education.	Amended and passed House Education; passed House
HB 750	Strengthening MS Academic Research Through Business Act; extend repealer on	Rep. Fred Shanks	Extends program repealer from 2026 to 2029.	Passed House Universities & Colleges; passed House; transmitted to Senate
HB 1035	MS Future Innovators Act; enact to require high school computer science or CTE with embedded computer science course	Rep Kevin Felsher	Requires each high school student beginning w/ 2029-2030 school year to complete either a computer science course or complete a credit in an industry-aligned CTE course embedded with the foundations of computer science. Courses must include instruction on artificial intelligence.	Passed House Education; passed House
HB 1126	Teacher pay; increase for teachers and assistant teachers	Rep. Jansen Owen	Provides a \$5,000 across-the-board teacher pay raise and an additional \$3,000 annual salary increase for licensed SPED teachers who are employed in a special education instructional capacity in a public school district. Also caps superintendent salaries at 250% of the salary of a licensed teacher with equivalent education, licensure, and years of experience and returns PERS Tier 5 retirement eligibility back to 30 years, rather than 35 years as in current law. Amended on House floor to eliminate current law that requires educators to be paid on the last working day of December.	Amended and passed House Education; passed House Appropriations; amended and passed House; transmitted to Senate

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HB 1204	CTE; remove stipulations that only certain programs leading to industry certification are considered for statewide accountability	Rep. Kent McCarty	Allows CTE grant funds to be used to purchase equipment needed for programs which lead to qualifying industry certifications as identified by the State Workforce Investment Board.	Passed House Education; passed House Workforce Development; passed House
HB 1205	Students with disabilities; remove requirement for signing of a confidentiality pledge before mediation begins in alignment with federal law	Rep. Kent McCarty	Aligns the state's mediation process for students with disabilities under IDEA with the federal policy by removing the requirement for confidentiality pledges to be signed before mediation begins.	Passed House Education; passed House
HB 1206	Early childhood education employees; clarify qualifications exemption for those employed in programs not granted by SDE	Rep. Kent McCarty	Requires early childhood education employees in charter schools to be held to the same standards as those employees in public schools.	Passed House Education; passed House; transmitted to Senate
HB 1207	Dyslexia; revise definition to align with updated definition adopted by the IDA Board of Directors	Rep. Kent McCarty	Revises and updates the definition of dyslexia in order to comply with national standards. Amended on House floor to allow districts impacted by Winter Storm Fern to be allowed up to 15 days, rather than 10, of hold harmless.	Passed House Education; amended and passed House; transmitted to Senate
HB 1212	University-based program; clarify funding allocations under the total funding formula	Rep. Kent McCarty	Clarifies funding allocations under the Mississippi Student Funding Formula for university-based programs.	Passed House Education; passed House Appropriations; passed House
HB 1234	School Accountability Dashboard Act; establish to provide parents with critical student performance data	Rep. Zach Grady	Requires a School Accountability Dashboard for Mississippi public schools to promote transparency and provide parents with critical student performance data and financial accountability information. Dashboard must be easily accessible on both the district website, as well as the MDE website. Amended on House floor to delete language regarding development of separate accountability standards for charter schools.	Amended and passed House Education; amended and passed House

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HB 1260	Mississippi Student Funding Formula; bring forward provisions related to	Rep. Kent McCarty	Brings forward the sections of state law governing the Mississippi Student Funding Formula for possible amendment. Amended on House floor to add reverse repealer.	Passed House Education; passed House Appropriations; amended and passed House
HB 1310	"Mississippi Open to Religion Act"; establish	Rep. Chuck Blackwell	Requires school districts to provide a daily opportunity and time for students and employees to engage in a period of prayer and other religious observations. Participants must opt-in to this period by signing a consent form. The period may not conflict with instructional time. Amended on House floor to clarify locations for such meetings.	Passed House Education; amended and passed House
HB 1318	Student transportation; revise manner of for students on vehicles other than school buses	Rep. Kent McCarty	Allows school buses to be used for emergency relief as long as such use does not interfere with the transportation of students to/from school.	Passed House Education; passed House
HB 1320	Pupil transportation; provide discretionary authority to local school boards to provide for those who live within one mile of the school	Rep. Kent McCarty	Provides districts with the discretion to provide transportation to students who live less than one mile of the school to which they are assigned if conditions for walking to school present a risk to the students' safety.	Passed House Education; passed House
HB 1395	School districts; revise certain provisions regarding sale or lease of unused property	Rep. Shanda Yates	Limits the right of first refusal a school district must grant to charter schools for the purchase or lease of unused school property to 90 days to exercise this right. A charter's failure to act within these 90 days will be deemed as a rejection of the offer to purchase or lease the property	Passed House Education; passed House; transmitted to Senate
HB 1495	Starkville-Oktibbeha School District and MSU; authorize agreements to have jointly used primary and secondary schools	Rep. Rob Roberson	Authorizes a partnership between the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District and Mississippi State University for the purpose of establishing additional schools on MSU's campus.	Passed House Education; passed House Appropriations; passed House; transmitted to Senate

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
HB 1528	Teacher licensure; revise provisions related to educator preparation programs and criteria for entry	Rep. Rob Roberson	Revises qualifications for entry into ed prep programs and provides the State Board of Education will maintain criteria (i.e., ACT score, Praxis Core score, or minimum GPA) for entry and licensure requirements. Amended on House floor to add the Mississippi Medical Education Pipeline and Readiness Act language.	Amended and passed House Education; amended and passed House
HB 1578	Public schools; require to adopt policies to educate students about the dangers of social media and predators	Rep. Joey Hood	Requires school districts to adopt a dating violence policy to educate students on the dangers of sexual predators and crimes committed via social media. Requires MDE to adopt model policy before July 1, 2027, to assist school districts in developing such policies.	Passed House Education; passed House
HB 1581	Mobile sports betting; include tidelands and child support	Rep. Casey Eure	Legalizes online sports betting with revenue earmarked for PERS. Amended on House floor to provide cash infusion of \$600 million to PERS contingent on the PERS Board reporting an annual rate of return of no less than 7.75%.	Passed House Gaming; amended and passed House
HB 1585	School districts; require evaluation of and reporting on costs associated with technology acquisitions	Rep. Kent McCarty	Requires local boards and charter schools to evaluate certain cost and performance metrics when acquiring technology and to submit an annual report to MDE regarding operation, repair needs, and repair/replacement costs of technology. Requires MDE to submit annual report to legislature.	Amended and passed House Education; passed House
SB 2001	School teachers, assistant teachers, and college faculty; raise pay of	Senator Dennis DeBar	Provides \$2,000 across-the-board pay raise for teachers and assistant teachers. Prohibits the reduction of local supplements to offset the pay raise. Expresses legislative intent for community college and university professors to receive \$2,000 pay raise	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Appropriations committees

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2002	Student transfers; remove requirement for current district of attendance to approve release	Senator Dennis DeBar	Removes ability of releasing school board to veto the transfer of a student. Student may transfer from one public school to another public school with approval solely from the receiving school district. Receiving school district may charge fees at their discretion. Transferees must notify district of transfer by March 15 outside of a good cause exception. MHSAA retains athletic eligibility determination of transfers.	Amended and passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to House Education
SB 2003	Retired educators; revise provisions regarding return to work as teachers	Senator Dennis DeBar	Revises current provisions of state law governing retired teachers returning to the classroom: reduces required separation period from 90 days to 45 days; removes the requirement that a returning teacher may only teach in a critical shortage geographic or subject area; allows districts to use local funds to pay all or a portion of a returning teacher's health insurance premiums; allows district to pay no more than 65%, rather than the current 50%, of the teacher's compensation as salary; and allows any PERS retiree, not just retired teachers, to teach while drawing retirement benefits as long as they obtain the appropriate license for doing so.	Amended and passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Appropriations committees
SB 2004	Mississippi PERS Stability Act; enact	Senator Daniel Sparks	Provides a \$500 million infusion into PERS on July 1, 2026, and then \$50 million annually for the next 10 years.	Passed Senate Appropriations; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House State Affairs and Appropriations committees
SB 2071	School boards; authorize to vote on providing members and their dependents with health insurance paid for by local funds	Senator Dennis DeBar	Authorizes local districts to provide health insurance for their school board members and their eligible dependents if the insurance is paid for with local funds and not state funds.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2072	Education Enhancement Fund; revise date of issuance and distribution of procurement cards or digital solutions for classroom supplies	Senator Dennis DeBar	Revises the deadline for issuance of EEF procurement cards from August 1 to July 15.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
SB 2099	Education; require public schools to adopt policies prohibiting or restricting cell phone possession or use by students in class	Senator Briggs Hopson	Requires school districts to adopt policy banning possession of or restricting the use of cell phones by students during class or while under the supervision and control of a school employee. Any district that does not adopt a policy and submit it to MDE by January 1, 2027, will have funding withheld.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
SB 2103	School counselors; delete requirement of counselors to abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics	Senator Angela Hill	Amends current law to abolish the requirement that professional school counselors abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to House Education
SB 2208	Mississippi Public University System Governance Study Commission; create	Senator Nicole Boyd	Creates a 10-member study committee to review the system-level governance structure of state's university system. Requires the committee to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than December 1, 2026. Amended on Senate floor to add HBCU graduate to study committee.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; amended and passed Senate; Motion to Reconsider entered
SB 2236	Cardiac Emergency Response Plan; revise to include airway clearance devices	Senator Philman Ladner	Revises the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan to include the use of airway clearance devices in public schools.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Appropriations committees
SB 2238	Mississippi State University; allow to partner with local school district	Senator Bart Williams	Authorizes a partnership between the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District and Mississippi State University for the purpose of establishing additional schools on MSU's campus.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to House Education

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2242	Mississippi Math Act; enact	Senator Nicole Boyd	Establishes the Moving Mathematics in Mississippi (M3) program to expand math coaches and supports in grades K-12. MDE to invite districts to participate and to develop K-5 math screener to be administered at least 3 times annually beginning w/ the 2026-27 school year. Requires an algebra readiness indicator based on Grade 5 Statewide Mathematics Assessment scale score and an individual math plan for each student identified below the benchmark prior to their beginning middle school math. Amended on Senate floor to add a reverse repealer.	Amended and passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House
SB 2243	Don Triplett Act; enact to create ombudsman office in State Department of Education	Senator Nicole Boyd	Creates the Office of Ombudsman within MDE to help families navigate the education process and to enhance communications between families and school districts.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
SB 2286	Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law; revise provisions concerning	Senator Dennis DeBar	Transfers control and supervision of attendance officers (SAOs) to local school districts. Creates MDE Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement and Dropout Prevention. Increases minimum salary for SAOs to \$34,000. Expands qualifications for SAOs and provides additional 76 SAOs to create ratio of 1:2,500 students. Provides no student shall be granted more than 5 excused absences per semester. Requires districts to notify parents when a student has 3 or more absences that place student at risk of chronic absenteeism. Requires district to adopt a written chronic absenteeism reduction plan when school's chronic absenteeism rate exceeds 10% for any subgroup or grade level. Updates the definition of school day to be 66% of the instructional day. Amended on Senate floor to add a	Passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2288	Comprehensive Workforce Training and Education Consolidation Act; expand CTE incentive grant purposes and extend repealer	Senator Dennis DeBar	Provides that CTE incentive grants may be used to purchase needed equipment for programs that lead to qualifying industry certifications. Extends repealer from 2026 to 2029.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House
SB 2292	School curriculum; require that schools teach civics courses before completion of high school	Senator Brice Wiggins	Requires, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, public and charter schools to teach a civics course between 8th and 12th grade. MDE to prescribe course standards. Amended on Senate floor to require factual depiction of US history and tradition.	Passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House
SB 2293	Mississippi Student Funding Formula; increase weight and multiplier for gifted education	Senator Brice Wiggins	Increases the weight and multiplier in the Mississippi Student Funding Formula for gifted education to 14.5% applied to 10% of a school district. Includes 7th and 8th grade students in the formula's CTE weight. Amended on Senate floor to add reverse repealer.	Amended and passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House
SB 2294	MS Future Innovators Act; enact to require high school computer science or CTE with embedded computer science course	Senator Chris Johnson	Requires each high school student beginning w/ 2029-2030 school year to pass a computer science or CTE course to graduate. The course must include instruction on artificial intelligence.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
SB 2344	Financial literacy; require as component of postsecondary education	Senator Nicole Boyd	Require students, beginning with student cohort entering in the fall of 2027, at Mississippi universities and community colleges to complete a financial literacy course as a condition of graduation.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; passed Senate; transmitted to House



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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2368	Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program; amend	Senator Nicole Boyd	Amends current law to remove requirement that students complete college prep curriculum approved by IHL Board to be eligible for funds. Provides that applicants whose families have an annual income equal to \$42,500 will be found to be in financial need. Requires students be eligible for Pell Grant prior to receiving state funds under this program. Amended on Senate floor to establish the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Scholarship.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; amended and passed Senate
SB 2483	J.P. Wilemon, Jr., Financial Literacy Act; enact	Senator Daniel Sparks	Requires MDE to incorporate financial literacy components within the existing curriculum to be taught in grades 6-8 beginning in 2027-28 school year. Requires passage of a ½ Carnegie Unit Personal Finance course or a full Carnegie Unit course with half of the course standards concerning financial literacy as a graduation requirement.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
SB 2484	Building Regional Infrastructure for Diverse Growth in Education (BRIDGE) Act; enact	Senator Nicole Boyd	Creates the Building Regional Infrastructure for Diverse Growth in Education (BRIDGE) Act which requires MDE to conduct a statewide study and planning process to create a unified framework for the development of regional special purpose schools in the state, with one program addressing special needs students and another addressing CTE and workforce training. Amended on Senate floor to add reverse repealer.	Amended and passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2487	Literacy in grades 4-8; develop intervention strategies to support the promotion of	Senator Dennis DeBar	Expands state's literacy initiative into middle grades. Requires universal literacy screeners to be administered three times per year in grades 4-8; requires individual reading plan for any student with a reading deficiency and plan must include intervention strategies based on the science of reading; requires MDE to provide system of support to schools and districts for grades 4-8; requires each district to employ at least one reading specialist, interventionist, or dyslexia therapist for any school(s) serving grades 4-8 students; requires retention of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade student who scores in the lowest achievement level on the reading portion of the grade 8 state annual assessment or approved alternate standardized assessment and allows limited good cause exemptions. Amended on Senate floor to add reverse repealer.	Amended and passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate
SB 2494	Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs); specify authority for bulk purchasing	Senator Chad McMahan	Provides that regional educational service agencies may engage in bulk purchasing. Amended on Senate floor to require that all services be competitively bid.	Amended and passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committee
SB 2515	Closed schools; revise certain provisions regarding repurposing of	Senator David Blount	Limits the right of first refusal a school district must grant to charter schools for the purchase or lease of unused school property to 12 months to exercise this right. Authorizes school boards to approve alternative uses for unused school property.	Amended and passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
SB 2522	UPSKILL Mississippi Grant Program; create	Senator Nicole Boyd	Creates new program administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid to support upgrading priority skills for key industry learning and labor through tuition-free access to workforce-aligned community and junior college programs. Requires Accelerate Mississippi to annually provide a list of eligible programs based on priority sectors and occupations. Amended on Senate floor to add reverse repealer.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House
SB 2523	State institutions of higher learning; bring forward code sections concerning	Senator Nicole Boyd	Brings forward the sections of state law governing state institution of higher learning for possible amendment. Amended on Senate floor to require the IHL Board to establish no later than June 20, 2026, performance standards to be used in a performance based budget that must be used beginning July 1, 2029, to provide that 75% of state funds be distributed to state universities based on this performance based funding model.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; amended and passed Senate
SB 2524	Mississippi Postsecondary Attainment Council; establish	Senator Nicole Boyd	Creates new 25-member council to establish state's postsecondary attainment goals and action-oriented strategies to achieve that goal. Requires council to publish annual report by November 1 of each year beginning in 2027.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Universities & Colleges and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
SB 2613	PERS Tier 5 COLA Account; create and direct transfers to	Senator Daniel Sparks	Sets aside \$5 million a year for the next ten years to fund a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for PERS Tier 5 employees.	Passed Senate Finance; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House State Affairs and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees

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SB 2909	PERS creditable service; bring forward CODE sections	Senator Daniel Sparks	Reduces the creditable service requirement for retirement regardless of age from 35 years to 30 years for PERS Tier 5 employees.	Amended and passed Senate Finance; passed Senate; transmitted to House
SB 2911	PERS; provide alternative return to work provisions	Senator Daniel Sparks	Allows retired state employees to return to work in 30 days rather than the current 90-day waiting period. Allows returning retirees to earn up to 80% of a position's salary. Returning employees remain on their original retirement tier. Prohibits returning retirees from filling positions of elected officials, university/community college administrators, or K-12 superintendents. Provides employer will be responsible for both employer and employee PERS contributions.	Amended and passed Senate Finance; passed Senate; transmitted to House

### Bills That Have Died Since Surviving 2/3/26 Original Committee Deadline

HB 752	Mississippi Young Readers Club; establish pilot program to provide reading literature to certain students to enhance early literacy	Rep. Rob Roberson	Creates pilot program of the Mississippi Young Readers Club to provide developmentally appropriate books and literary materials for students in pilot schools.	Passed House Education; passed House Appropriations
HB 927	Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science; provide for administration and clarify employee hiring procedures and 10th grade enrollment option	Rep. Steve Massengill	Provides Mississippi School for Math and Science more autonomy over its operations and allows the school to expand its enrollment to include 10th graders.	Passed House Education
HB 935	MS Association of Independent Colleges and Universities Infrastructure Grant Program Act of 2022; extend repealer on	Rep. Fred Shanks	Extends program repealer from 2026 to 2029.	Passed House Universities & Colleges
HB 1286	One Mississippi; require State Dpt of Ed to provide copies for sale to students in Grade 2 for instruction during "Read Across America Week"	Rep. Becky Currie	Requires a copy of the book "One Mississippi" to be provided to each second grader in a public or charter school during Read Across America Week.	Amended and passed House Education

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 6:15 p.m. 2/12/26)
HB-1292	School Board members; require to be elected for term of four years at the statewide general election or presidential election	Rep. Jansen-Owen	Requires all school board members to be elected and prevents municipal school districts from having appointed board members. Allows for the recall of a board member if 30% of the county electorate petitions for such and the governor approves the petition.	Amended and passed House-Education
HB-1589	Teachers who have sexual relations with students; prohibit from resigning	Rep. Jansen-Owen	Prohibits a school employee who has had sexual relations with a student t from resigning in lieu of termination.	Amended and passed House-Education
HB-1606	The Excellence for All Pilot Program Act; create	Rep. Kent-McCarty	Establishes pilot program focused on improving teacher satisfaction and increasing student learning by elevating the highest-performing teachers to coaching roles.	Amended and passed House-Education
SB-2235	Juvenile felony arrests; require notification to juvenile's school district by local law enforcement	Senator Brian-Rhodes	Requires local law enforcement agencies to notify a juvenile's school district of a felony arrest of the juvenile within 24 hours of the arrest.	Amended and passed Senate-Education
SB-2306	Commission on School Accreditation; task with governing professional conduct of school board members	Senator Nicole-Boyd	Requires Commission on School Accreditation to promulgate rules regarding the professional conduct and governance of school board members. Authorizes penalties for any board member who violates such rules, including pay being withheld. Establishes a code of conduct for school board members, but does not allow for the removal of a board member.	Passed Senate Education
SB-2485	Charter school teachers; limit exemption from educational qualifications to programs not receiving grants from MDE	Senator Dennis-DeBar	Limits the exemption of charter school teachers from certain educational qualification requirements to those charter teachers employed in programs not receiving funding from MDE.	Passed Senate Education

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SB-2486	School and district consolidation; create plan with help of Standing Commission on School District Efficiency	Senator Dennis DeBar	Requires MDE's Standing Commission on School District Efficiency to study the need for consolidating school districts throughout the state. Commission is to submit a plan to the legislature by November 30, 2026, and on November 30 of every year thereafter. Expresses the legislative intent to pass legislation in the 2027 Legislative Session and subsequent sessions that will require consolidation with the first consolidation to occur in July 2028.	Amended and passed Senate Education