

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

Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 12:00 noon, 3/12/26)
<b>Bills That Have Been Sent to the Governor</b>				
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; referred to Senate Finance; passed Senate Finance; passed Senate; due from Governor 3/16/26
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; referred to Senate Universities & Colleges; passed Senate Universities & Colleges; passed Senate; due from Governor 3/16/26
<b>Bills Under Consideration</b>				
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; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Education and Appropriations committees; passed Senate Education; passed Senate Appropriations; passed Senate
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. Strike all amendment passed by Senate provides a \$6,000 teacher pay raise phased in over three years (\$2K/year), as well as a \$2,000 pay raise for assistant teachers and an annual salary supplement for special education instructors.	Passed House Education; passed House; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education; passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate

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HB 1935	Appropriation; Education, Department of.	Rep. Karl Oliver	Provides FY 2027 funding for K-12 General Education (MDE operations), the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, Chickasaw Interest, and Vocational and Technical Education.	Passed House Appropriations; passed House; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Appropriations; amended and passed Senate Appropriations
HB 1944	Taxation; revise credits authorized for contributions to certain eligible charitable organizations.	Rep. Trey Lamar	Increases the amount of state funding sent to private schools via Children's Promise Act tax credits in 2026 (\$16 million), 2027 (\$18 million), and 2028 (\$20 million) with no reporting or accountability required of these private schools.	Referred to House Ways & Means; amended and passed House Ways & Means; passed House; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Finance
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. Amended by House Education to require MDE to develop model code of ethics for school counselors. Strike all amendment passed by House provides \$5,000 teacher pay raise, \$3,000 assistant teacher pay raise, and \$3,000 annual supplement for special education instructors, all of which are effective with the 2026-27 school year. Strike all also caps superintendent salaries, lowers PERS Tier 5 eligibility to 30 years, provides pay raise for School Attendance Officers, provides annual supplement for occupational therapists & school psychologists, and revises guidelines governing retiring teachers retiring to classroom while drawing retirement.	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to House Education; amended and passed House Education; amended and passed House; returned to Senate for concurrence
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; referred to House Workforce Development; amended and passed House Workforce Development; passed House as amended; returned to Senate for concurrence; Senate declined to concur/invited conference

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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. Strike all amendment passed by House Education establishes the adolescent literacy initiative for Grades 4-8,the Mississippi Math Act and the Moving Mathematics in Mississippi (M3) Programs, and requires passage of financial literacy course as a requirement for graduation. (NOTE: Funding is included in HB 1940.)	Passed Senate Education; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees; amended and passed House Education; passed House Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency; passed House as amended; returned to Senate for concurrence; Senate declined to concur/invited conference
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; transmitted to House; double referred to House Universities & Colleges and Appropriations committees; amended and passed House Universities & Colleges; passed House Appropriations; passed House as amended; returned to Senate for concurrence; Senate concurred in amendment from House

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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; amended and passed House Universities & Colleges; passed House Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency; passed House as amended; returned to Senate for concurrence; Senate declined to concur/invited conference; Senate conferees named - Boyd, DeLano, and Sparks
SB 3053	Appropriation; IHL - General Support	Senator Briggs Hopson	Provides FY 2027 funding for Mississippi's university system	Amended and passed Senate Appropriations; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Appropriations E and Appropriations A committees; amended and passed House Appropriations E; passed House Appropriations A
SB 3060	Appropriation; IHL - Student Financial Aid	Senator Briggs Hopson	Provides FY 2027 funding for Student Financial Aid	Amended and passed Senate Appropriations; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Appropriations E and Appropriations A committees; amended and passed House Appropriations E; passed House Appropriations A

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Bill	Short Title	Author	Description	Action (As of 12:00 noon, 3/12/26)
SB 3062	Appropriation; Community and Junior Colleges Board - Administrative Expenses	Senator Briggs Hopson	Provides FY 2027 funding for the Community and Junior Colleges Board	Passed Senate Appropriations; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Appropriations E and Appropriations A committees; amended and passed House Appropriations E; passed House Appropriations A
SB 3063	Appropriation; Community and Junior Colleges Board - Support for Community and Junior Colleges	Senator Briggs Hopson	Provides FY 2027 funding for Mississippi's community and junior colleges	Amended and passed Senate Appropriations; passed Senate; transmitted to House; double referred to House Appropriations E and Appropriations A committees; amended and passed House Appropriations E; passed House Appropriations A
<b>Bills That Have Died Since Surviving 2/3/26 Original Committee Deadline</b>				
HB 389	<del>Student enrollment; require automobile registration as proof of residency</del>	<del>Rep. Kimberly Remak</del>	<del>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. Amended on House floor to make automobile registration an option rather than a requirement for enrollment</del>	<del>Passed House Education; amended and passed House; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education</del>
HB 517	<del>"MS Charter School Act of 2013"; bring forward provisions related to</del>	<del>Rep. Randy Boyd</del>	<del>Brings forward the sections of state law governing charter schools for possible amendment. Reverse repealer added in House Education.</del>	<del>Amended and passed House Education; passed House; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Education and Universities &amp; Colleges committees</del>

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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	Rep. Fred Shanks	Extends program repealer from 2026 to 2029.	Passed House Universities & Colleges
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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education
HB 1126	Teacher pay; increase for teachers and assistant teachers	Rep. Jansen Owen	Provides a \$5,000 teacher pay raise and an additional \$3,000 annual salary increase for licensed SPED teachers who are employed in a SPED instructional capacity in a public school district. Caps superintendent salaries at 250% of the salary of a licensed teacher with equivalent education, licensure, and years of experience. Returns PERS Tier 5 retirement eligibility back to 30 years. 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; double referred to Senate Education and Appropriations committees

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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; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Education and Economic & Workforce Development committees
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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education
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; referred to Senate Education
HB 1207	State of emergency; provide exception for school districts impacted by "Winter Storm Fern" to be allowed up to 15 days of hold harmless	Rep. Kent McCarty	As introduced, revised and updated 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; referred to Senate Education
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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education

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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; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Education and Appropriations committees
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
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-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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education
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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education

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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; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Education and Universities & Colleges committees
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; transmitted to Senate; referred to Senate Education
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; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Finance and Gaming committees
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; transmitted to Senate; double referred to Senate Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
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

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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
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 state law governing retired teachers returning to the classroom: reduces required separation from 90 to 45 days; removes requirement that a returning teacher may only teach in a critical shortage geographic or subject area; allows districts to pay all or a portion of returning teacher's health insurance premiums with local funds; 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 to teach while drawing retirement benefits as long as they obtain the appropriate license	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

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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
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-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. Further amended on Senate floor to add two additional HBCU graduates to study committee.	Passed Senate Universities & Colleges; amended and passed Senate; Motion to Reconsider entered; reconsidered, amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to House Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
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

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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
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; double referred to House Education and Appropriations committees
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

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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 reverse repealer.	Passed Senate Education; amended and passed Senate; transmitted to House; referred to House Education
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; double-referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency
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; double-referred to House Education and Appropriations committees

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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-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; double-referred to House Universities & Colleges and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees
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; double-referred to House Education and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees

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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
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
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 8th 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; transmitted to House; double referred to House Education and Appropriations committees

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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
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; double referred to House Universities & Colleges and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees; passed House Universities & Colleges
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; transmitted to House; double referred to House Universities & Colleges and Accountability, Efficiency & Transparency committees

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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
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; double referred to House State Affairs and Appropriations committees
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; double referred to House State Affairs and Appropriations committees