

Section Number(s)	Details in Bill
Section 1	<p>Provides a \$5,000 increase across the teacher salary schedule.</p> <p>Provides an additional \$3,000 salary supplement for special education teachers.</p> <p>Establishes a \$6,000 salary supplement for national board certified school occupational therapists and school psychologists.</p> <p>Directs school districts to tie superintendent compensation to experience and qualifications, and creates a statewide cap on superintendent pay equal to 250% of a teacher with comparable credentials in the district. For example, a superintendent with a master’s degree and five years of experience could not earn more than 250% of a teacher in the district with the same credentials.</p>
Section 2	Increases assistant teacher pay by \$3,000.
Section 3 - 11	<p>Modifies retirement eligibility under the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS).</p> <p>Allows first responders who join PERS after March 1, 2026 to retire after 25 years of service (rather than 35) or at age 60 with at least eight years of service.</p> <p>Allows other public employees who join PERS after March 1, 2026 to retire after 30 years of service (rather than 35) or at age 60 with at least eight years of service.</p> <p>Exempts first responders from certain other PERS changes affecting new members, including changes to the cost-of-living adjustment (the “13th check”), meaning they remain under rules that apply to employees who joined PERS before March 1, 2026.</p>
Section 12	<p>Expands the return-to-work program for retired teachers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing retired teachers to work in any district, rather than only those designated as critical shortage districts. • Eliminating the five-year limit on post-retirement employment. • Removing the requirement that districts pay 50% of compensation as salary and send the other 50% to PERS.
Section 14	Increases the base student cost in the Mississippi Student Funding Formula to \$7,447.37 to cover the cost of the teacher pay raises outlined earlier in the bill.
Sections 13, 15 - 28	Brings forward provisions related to the Mississippi Student Funding Formula.
Section 29	Brings forward the School Safety Grant Program.

Section 30	Brings forward dual enrollment and dual credit provisions.
Section 31	Brings forward provisions related to the statewide testing system.
Section 32	Brings forward provisions related to the state's school accreditation and accountability system.
Section 33	Brings forward Emergency Fund Loss Assistance Program.
Section 34	Brings forward provisions related to funding formula payments for charter schools.
Section 35 - 39	Brings forward school funding provisions.
Section 40	Brings forward ESA program for students.
Section 41	Brings forward provisions related to school transportation funding.
Section 42	Brings forward provisions requiring school funding formula to fully cover the cost of the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for certain district employees.
Section 43	Brings forward provisions requiring MDE to produce an annual report to inform the Legislature, school districts, and the public about the status of the state's education system.
Section 44	Brings forward provisions outlining the school nurse intervention program within the State Department of Health.
Section 45	Brings forward provisions related to TANF benefits.
Section 46	Brings forward Line Item Appropriation Transparency Act.
Section 47	Brings forward provisions allowing school districts to reimburse interviewees for their travel costs.
Section 48-50	Brings forward provisions authorizing state-supported universities or colleges to operate specialized education programs for children with disabilities when local school districts cannot meet their needs.
Section 51-52	Brings forward provisions governing how local school taxes are raised and how state tax revenues are divided among schools, local governments, roads, and other programs.
Section 53	Brings forward provisions updating older terminology so all terms refer to the new school funding formula.
Section 54	Brings forward provision establishing deadlines for public officials, candidates, and appointees in Mississippi to file statements of economic interest.
Section 55	Brings forward provision allowing certain counties bordering the Pearl River to pledge up to 50% of their share of natural gas severance tax revenues as security for bonds.
Section 56	Brings forward provisions establishing the state's homestead exemption.

Section 57 - 58	Brings forward provisions allowing the State Forestry Commission to oversee timber management and improvement projects on school trust lands.
Section 59	Brings forward provision establishing the sixteenth section principal fund as a permanent trust for school districts.
Section 60	Brings forward provision requiring the Legislature to appropriate annual funds to support school districts affected by the sale of Chickasaw cession school lands.
Section 61-62	Brings forward provisions authorizing the Department of Finance and Administration to regulate state purchasing and establish a master lease-purchase program.
Section 63 - 64	Brings forward provisions defining the roles of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Education in overseeing Mississippi's public school system.
Section 65	Brings forward provisions allowing consolidated school districts to use non-state funding formula funds to cover legal and implementation costs related to creating or litigating single-member school board election districts.
Section 66 - 71	Brings forward provisions outlining powers of local school boards over district operations.
Section 72	Brings forward provision allowing school districts that join together to operate a regional high school center to use almost any available funding source.
Section 73	Brings forward provisions outlining the process for hiring school district employees.
Section 74	Brings forward provisions requiring school superintendents to issue formal employment contracts.
Section 75	Brings forward provisions allowing school boards to employ superintendents for up to four years and principals or licensed employees for up to three years, with contracts adjustable if enrollment or funding changes.
Section 76	Brings forward provisions requiring school boards to ensure salaries paid with Total Funding Formula funds meet the state minimum salary schedule, while allowing higher pay with other funds.
Section 77	Brings forward provisions stating that a decline in student enrollment during a school year cannot be used as a reason to discharge teachers during that same year.
Section 78	Brings forward provisions related to school boards' responsibility of setting salaries for superintendents, principals, and licensed employees.
Section 79	Brings forward provisions establishing the Mississippi School Administrator Sabbatical Program.
Section 80	Brings forward provisions around educational programs for students hospitalized for extended periods.

Section 81 - 83	Brings forward provisions requiring Mississippi public schools to operate for at least 180 days per year, allow limited flexibility and continued state funding for closures due to disasters or extreme weather (generally up to 10 days), and permit school boards to designate holidays as long as the minimum instructional time requirement is still met.
Section 84	Brings forward provisions establishing Mississippi's requirement to provide free appropriate public education and services for children with disabilities ages 3-20 and requiring the State Board of Education to create accountability standards and performance goals for students with disabilities
Section 85 - 86	Brings forward provisions allowing the State Department of Education to support dyslexia screening and remediation programs and to provide financial assistance for specialized education services for students with disabilities when appropriate programs are not available locally.
Section 87	Brings forward provision allowing child development centers to receive the same federal and state benefits provided to school districts,
Section 88	Brings forward provision requiring the State Board of Education to establish standards for gifted education programs and requiring school districts to provide gifted education.
Section 89 - 90	Brings forward provisions governing how state funding follows students attending agricultural high schools or community/junior colleges and allowing those institutions to cover additional instructional costs with other available funds.
Section 91 - 92	Brings forward provisions defining terms related to charter schools and requiring charter schools to annually report enrollment data to the State Department of Education and the local school district.
Section 93	Brings forward provisions authorizing the establishment and operation of community colleges.
Section 94	Brings forward provisions allowing community college districts to transfer control of agricultural high schools to county school districts and outlining how funding, enrollment reporting, and existing debt obligations are handled after the transfer.
Section 95	Brings forward provisions defining terms used in community college funding calculations.
Section 96	Brings forward provisions governing the use of state appropriations for vocational education programs.
Section 97	Brings forward provisions authorizing local governments and school entities to jointly fund, construct, and operate regional education centers.
Section 98	Brings forward provisions allowing school districts and community colleges to offer adult education and GED programs.
Section 99	Brings forward provisions authorizing the State Auditor to employ examiners to audit school district reports related to student enrollment, transportation, and other data used for education funding.

Section 100	Brings forward provisions authorizing local school boards to establish student transportation routes and allowing districts to use local funds to supplement transportation costs not covered by state funding.
Section 101	Brings forward provisions allowing school districts and the State Department of Education to pay certain program costs and fees using funds other than total funding formula funds.
Section 102 -104	Brings forward provisions providing state grants, loans, and bond financing mechanisms to support school district capital improvements.
Section 105	Brings forward provisions requiring school districts to limit expenditures to available funds and making officials personally liable for incurring obligations that exceed available fiscal resources.
Section 106	Brings forward provisions authorizing the State Department of Audit to audit and investigate school district financial transactions involving public school funds.
Section 107	Brings forward provisions establishing the Equity in Distance Learning Grant Program to reimburse schools for expenses related to distance learning.
Section 108 - 110	Brings forward provisions governing the funding, operation, reporting, and contractual arrangements of teacher demonstration or practice schools.
Section 111	Brings forward provisions establishing the Office of Educational Accountability within the State Department of Education.
Section 112	Brings forward provisions requiring school districts to pay at least the state minimum teacher salary and maintaining local salary supplements as a condition for receiving state education funds, with limited exceptions.
Section 113	Brings forward provisions allowing school districts to increase the minimum base pay for classroom teachers using any available funds.
Section 114	Brings forward provisions authorizing school districts to create teacher salary schedules based on factors such as training, experience, and performance while ensuring salaries do not fall below the state minimum.
Section 115	Brings forward provisions governing how funding and transportation allocations are handled for legally transferred students between school districts.
Section 116 - 118	Brings forward provisions governing how total funding formula allocations are estimated, distributed, and adjusted for school districts and charter schools.
Section 119	Brings forward provisions authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt regulations for administering the school funding law.

Section 120	Brings forward provisions establishing criminal and civil penalties for individuals who knowingly falsify reports related to student net enrollment under the school funding law.
Section 121 - 123	Brings forward provisions governing the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship and Speech-Language Therapy Scholarship programs
Section 124	Brings forward provisions establishing requirements and allowable waivers for school districts seeking designation as a District of Innovation.
Section 125	Brings forward provisions governing the Education Scholarship Account (ESA) program.
Section 126	Brings forward provisions establishing and governing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Bridge Bond Retirement Fund.
Section 127 - 132, 135	<p>Renames the Office of Dropout Prevention to the Office of Student Success and Graduation, which is tasked with increasing graduation rates and reducing chronic absenteeism.</p> <p>Requires school districts to submit an annual Student Success and Graduation Strategic Plan to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) by July 15 and sets a statewide goal of achieving a 90% graduation rate by the 2029–2030 school year.</p> <p>Directs the office to develop and disseminate model policies, tools, and guidance for early warning identification, tiered interventions, and family and community engagement, and to provide training to districts with chronic absenteeism rates above 10%.</p> <p>Renames the Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement as the Office of Educational Participation and renames school attendance officers as “student success and graduation coaches.” Authorizes up to 180 coaches statewide, supervised by three regional coordinators, to enforce attendance laws, investigate absences, and connect families with services.</p> <p>Authorizes up to 10 attendance compliance officers at MDE to support attendance data monitoring and training. Establishes qualification pathways, background check requirements, and a statewide salary schedule (\$32,000–\$60,000 beginning in 2026–2027) for coaches, and requires at least 12 hours of annual training.</p> <p>Requires district plans to address reentry for students returning from juvenile detention centers and maintains existing enforcement responsibilities related to compulsory school attendance.</p>
Section 133	<p>Removes the fixed hourly definition of a school day and instead ties it to locally set schedules that comply with State Board of Education accreditation requirements. Specifies that a student is considered present for the day if they attend at least 66% of the instructional day.</p> <p>Requires medical documentation for additional illness-related absences after a student has submitted three written parent notes per semester.</p>

	<p>Limits students to five excused absences per semester under certain categories unless additional absences are approved by the superintendent for extenuating circumstances.</p> <p>Defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of instructional days in a school year, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused.</p> <p>Requires school districts to monitor absenteeism data, implement tiered interventions and family engagement strategies, and adopt a public reduction plan if absenteeism exceeds 10%.</p> <p>Requires districts to adopt local attendance documentation and family engagement policies by July 1, 2026, review those policies every three years, and report attendance data annually.</p> <p>Provides that when a student accumulates eight unlawful absences or fails to participate in an attendance improvement plan, the student success and graduation coach (formerly attendance officer) must file a petition in youth court under the state’s youth court law.</p> <p>Requires a youth court intake officer to use evidence-based screening tools to determine whether the case should be diverted to supportive services or interventions rather than proceeding through formal court action.</p>
Section 134	<p>Removes the requirement that a district superintendent must consent when a youth court or chancellor orders a student to attend an alternative school program.</p>
Section 136 - 137	<p>Creates the District Improvement and Teacher Stabilization Supplement Program to provide targeted, nonrecurring funding to school districts rated “D” or “F.”</p> <p>Districts qualify based on academic improvement metrics or documented teacher shortages.</p> <p>Funding distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 60% based on academic improvement • Up to 40% based on teacher shortages • No district may receive more than 15% of total program funds. <p>Funds may be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher recruitment and retention incentives • Mentoring and induction programs • Targeted instructional supports <p>Funds cannot be used for administrative salaries or capital projects.</p>

	<p>Districts must submit improvement and spending plans, and MDE must provide an annual report to the Legislature.</p> <p>The program is capped at \$18 million annually and sunsets July 1, 2029.</p>
Section 138	Updates the reference to the statute requiring school districts to pay employees in equal monthly or bimonthly installments.
Section 139	Provides that the act takes effect July 1, 2026.