MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2016

By: Representative Scott To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 39

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO ASSESS THE STUDENT PERFORMANCE OF ALL ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS USING THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA TEST PROGRAM; TO PROHIBIT STUDENTS DETERMINED BY THE ASSESSMENT NOT PERFORMING AT GRADE LEVEL FROM THE SENIOR PRIVILEGE OF EARLY RELEASE FROM SCHOOL UPON COMPLETION OF ALL ACADEMIC CLASSES REQUIRED FOR THE DAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 37-16-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-16-5. (1) The school board of every district in this state shall periodically assess student performance and achievement in each school. Such assessment programs shall be based upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with the state's plan for education and which supplement the minimum performance standards approved by the State Board of Education. Data from district assessment programs shall be provided to the State Department of Education when such data is required in order to evaluate specific instructional programs or processes or when the data is needed for other research or evaluation projects.

Each district may provide acceptable, compatible district assessment data to substitute for any assessment data needed at the state level when the State Department of Education certifies that such data is acceptable for the purposes of Section 37-16-3.

(2) The school board of every district in this state shall assess the performance of every student in Grade 11 through the administration of the general educational development or High School Equivalency Diploma Testing Program as used by the Mississippi Community College Board for adult basic education. The assessment shall be administered before the conclusion of the year in which the student is enrolled in Grade 11. Any student whose performance demonstrates that he or she is not performing at grade level shall not have the privilege granted by the school district to seniors for early release during regular school hours upon completion of all academic classes required for the day.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2016.