

By: Senator(s) Doty

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2413

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-171, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO IMPLEMENT "PERSONAL  
3 RESPONSIBILITY" EDUCATION INTO THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL  
4 CURRICULUM BY JUNE 30, 2017, TO PRESCRIBE STANDARDS FOR THE  
5 APPROVED PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY CURRICULUM AND TO EXTEND THE  
6 AUTOMATIC REPEALER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-171, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-13-171. (1) The local school board of every public  
11 school district shall adopt a policy to implement \* \* \* "personal  
12 responsibility" education into its middle and high school  
13 curriculum by June 30, \* \* \* 2017, which instruction in those  
14 subjects shall be implemented not later than the start of  
15 the \* \* \* 2017-2018 school year or the local school board shall  
16 adopt the program which has been developed by the Mississippi  
17 Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of  
18 Health. Personal responsibility education shall occur at least  
19 once in Grades 6 through 8 and at least once in Grades 9 through  
20 12. Districts may choose a different curriculum for middle and



21 high school if applicable. The State Department of Education  
22 shall \* \* \* publish a list of approved curriculum that is age,  
23 grade and developmentally appropriate. Curriculum selected must  
24 have been deemed evidence based and medically accurate by the  
25 Mississippi State Department of Health. The State Department of  
26 Education shall establish a protocol to be used by districts to  
27 provide continuity in teaching the approved curriculum in a manner  
28 that is age, grade and developmentally appropriate.

29 (2) \* \* \* Personal responsibility education curriculum must  
30 include information that abstinence from sexual activity is the  
31 only one hundred percent (100%) effective way to prevent  
32 unintended pregnancy.

33 \* \* \*

34 ( \* \* \*3) There shall be no effort in \* \* \* any curriculum  
35 to teach that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby.

36 ( \* \* \*4) At all times when sex-related education is  
37 discussed or taught, boys and girls shall be separated according  
38 to gender into different classrooms, sex-related education  
39 instruction may not be conducted when boys and girls are in the  
40 company of any students of the opposite gender.

41 (5) The term "evidence based" means a curriculum must be  
42 proven to reduce behavioral risk factors associated with teenage  
43 pregnancy among teens age nineteen (19) and younger and be  
44 evaluated using an experimental or quasi-experimental design, with  
45 results published in peer reviewed, scientific journals.



46       (6) The State Department of Education shall provide the list  
47 of approved curriculum to the local school boards, publish the  
48 list on its website, and ensure school districts implement a  
49 curriculum from the list. The State Department of Education, in  
50 collaboration with the State Department of Health, will review and  
51 update the list of approved curriculum at least every five (5)  
52 years.

53       (7) The State Department of Education shall submit an annual  
54 report to the House and Senate Education Committees that includes  
55 information for each school district regarding the curriculum  
56 adopted, the grades that received the instruction, the number of  
57 students who were taught personal responsibility education by  
58 grade level, and the total number of students in each grade.  
59 School districts shall provide the necessary information to the  
60 Department of Education no later than July 1 of every year.

61       (8) Each school shall provide a written consent form to the  
62 parent/guardian of every student eligible to participate in  
63 Personal responsibility education at school registration yearly.  
64 The consent form shall:

65           (a) Inform the parent/guardian of the curriculum used  
66 by the school for the grade in which their child will be entering;

67           (b) Inform the parent/guardian that copies of the  
68 curriculum are available for their review;

69           (c) Ask the parent/guardian if they choose for their  
70 child to participate;



71                   (d) Require a signature from the parent/guardian.

72           ( \* \* \*9) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, \* \* \*  
73 2021.

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

