

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education; Universities
and Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 993

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI MIDDLE SCHOOL
 2 UNIVERSITY-BASED ACADEMY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ACADEMY SHALL BE A
 3 MODEL SCHOOL FOR THE EDUCATION OF SIXTH AND SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS
 4 IN OKTIBBEHA COUNTY AND FOR THE EDUCATION OF TEACHERS AND
 5 ADMINISTRATORS ENROLLED IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT MISSISSIPPI
 6 STATE UNIVERSITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR SHALL
 7 BE THE ACADEMY'S FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION; TO REQUIRE THE SCHOOL
 8 BOARD OF THE STARKVILLE-OKTIBBEHA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
 9 THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY TO
 10 JOINTLY GOVERN THE ACADEMY; TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE TO
 11 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT
 12 OF EDUCATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ACADEMY; TO REPEAL
 13 SECTION 37-131-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE
 14 ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEACHER'S DEMONSTRATION OR PRACTICE SCHOOL IN
 15 OKTIBBEHA COUNTY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Middle
 18 School University-based Academy, which shall be a model school for
 19 students in the sixth and seventh grades, located in Oktibbeha
 20 County, Mississippi. The purpose of the school shall be to
 21 provide the optimum educational opportunity for sixth and seventh
 22 grade students in the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School
 23 District and a model teaching program for the education of
 24 teachers and administrators enrolled in the College of Education



25 at Mississippi State University through an educational partnership
26 between the school district and the College of Education.

27 (2) The 2017-2018 school year shall be the first year that
28 the academy may admit students for enrollment.

29 (3) Admission to the Mississippi Middle School
30 University-based Academy must be open to all sixth and seventh
31 grade students residing in the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated
32 School District. The academy may not limit admission based on
33 ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, income level,
34 disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, or
35 academic or athletic ability. If capacity is insufficient to
36 enroll all students who wish to attend the academy, students must
37 be selected through a lottery process that is equitable,
38 randomized, transparent and impartial in order for every student
39 to have an equal opportunity for enrollment. However, students
40 returning to the academy after completing the sixth grade at the
41 academy must be given an enrollment preference.

42 (4) The Mississippi Middle School University-based Academy
43 shall be governed jointly by the school board of the
44 Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District and the College
45 of Education at Mississippi State University. The school board
46 and College of Education shall execute an agreement clearly
47 defining the roles and responsibilities of the school district and
48 the College of Education in the administration and operation of



49 the academy. It shall be the duty of the school board, acting
50 jointly with the College of Education, to:

51 (a) Develop a detailed plan relating to the
52 construction, opening, operation, maintenance and funding of the
53 academy to be presented to the Legislature before the 2017 Regular
54 Session;

55 (b) Promulgate policies, rules and regulations
56 necessary for the administration and operation of the academy;

57 (c) Employ administrators, teachers and other licensed
58 and noninstructional personnel at the appropriate time for the
59 academy;

60 (d) Develop the annual budget for the academy; and

61 (e) Undertake any other actions that may be necessary
62 in the establishment and operation of the academy.

63 (5) The school board of the Starkville-Oktibbeha
64 Consolidated School District and the College of Education at
65 Mississippi State University may solicit assistance from the staff
66 of the State Department of Education and the Board of Trustees of
67 State Institutions of Higher Learning as required for the
68 implementation of this act. In addition, the board and College of
69 Education, acting jointly, may enter into such contracts or
70 agreements as may be deemed necessary to carry out the purposes
71 and intent of this act.

72 (6) The school board of the Starkville-Oktibbeha
73 Consolidated School District and the College of Education at



74 Mississippi State University may receive contributions, donations,
75 gifts, bequests of money, other forms of financial assistance as
76 well as property, equipment, materials or labor from any public or
77 private source for the construction, operation and support of the
78 Mississippi Middle School University-based Academy.

79 **SECTION 2.** For the 2017 fiscal year, the Legislature shall
80 appropriate an amount of not less than Thirty Million Dollars
81 (\$30,000,000.00) from any available state funds, including any
82 proceeds of general obligation bonds that may be authorized by
83 the Legislature for the construction of the Mississippi Middle
84 School University-based Academy, to the State Department of
85 Education for the exclusive purpose of implementation of this act.

86 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-131-15, Mississippi Code of 1972,
87 which authorizes Oktibbeha County and the former Starkville
88 Municipal Separate School District to cooperate with the Board of
89 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in the
90 establishment and operation of a teacher's demonstration or
91 practice school, is repealed.

92 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2016.

