

# K-12 schools to receive \$150M for distance learning under senate proposal

*Licensure bill aimed at reducing teacher shortage sent to Governor*

## Press Release

The Mississippi Senate voted on Thursday, June 18, to dedicate \$150 million from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund to K-12 education needs amid COVID-19. The goal is equipping every Mississippi student with a laptop or tablet and improving connectivity for distance learning.

With an overwhelming 51 votes and dozens of co-sponsors, the Equity in Distance Learning Act, Senate Bill 3044, cleared the floor and is headed to the House for consideration.

“The pandemic shined a bright light on the significant technology gaps in our State,

but our teachers and students made adjustments and rose to the challenge,” Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann said. “Under the leadership of Education Chairman Dennis DeBar, this legislation will help bridge the digital divide, secure devices and better connectivity for students and teachers, and launch teaching and learning in Mississippi into the future.”

Eligible expenses under the legislation include laptop computers and tablets; software, including learning management systems; hotspots or other devices to increase connectivity; security enhancement; professional develop-

ment; or other items necessary to increase safety and health in classrooms. The money, as the bill is currently written, would be distributed to school districts based on average daily attendance.

School districts would have flexibility to spend the funds on unique needs in their districts within certain parameters.

The legislation requires the development of distance learning, technology sustainability, and responsible use policies.

To track Senate Bill 3044’s progress, visit: [\[tus.ls.state.ms.us/2020/pdf/history/SB/SB3044.xml\]\(http://tus.ls.state.ms.us/2020/pdf/history/SB/SB3044.xml\).](http://billsta-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

The Mississippi Senate also sent a bill critical to ending the teacher shortage in the State to the Governor with unanimous support.

Senate Bill 2511, authored by Senator DeBar, would allow college students to enter a School of Education if they have achieved a 21 ACT score, 3.0 grade point average on pre-major coursework, or a passing score on the Praxis Core, the test traditionally used in teacher certification programs.

The law currently requires a 21 ACT score and 2.75 grade point average in content coursework.

All of the Schools of Educa-

tion in Mississippi’s private and public universities and colleges across the State support the change, citing the 21 ACT requirement as an obstacle blocking more than 350 students from becoming teachers.

## \*Central Holmes

(Continued from page 1.)

Members of the CHCS 2020 graduating class received their diplomas:

\*Miranda Marie Ahner, Christyn Mykenzie Allen, \*\*Morgan Lee Bigbee, \*\*Alison Ragan Brown, \*\*Kaylon Hollie Cotton, \*\*Steven Pearce Edwards, \*\*Henley Clare Hester, \*\*Wykece Ra’Kell Johnson, \*\*Hannah Elizabeth Malone (valedictorian),

To track Senate Bill visit 2511’s progress, visit: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2020/pdf/history/SB/SB2511.xml>.

To learn more about Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, visit [www.ltgov-hosemann.ms.gov](http://www.ltgov-hosemann.ms.gov).

Michael Cade McBride, Johnathan Harris McCaskill, Owen Underwood O’Bryant, \*\*Bradley Jacob Robinson, William Robert Rogers, \*Klara Nichelle Smith, Elijah Daniel Steen, Jacob Hill Sykes, \*\*Samuel Pacey Thompson, James Mickell Windom II, \*\*Jasmine Michelle Windom (salutatorian) and Donna Nicole Winstead. \*Denotes Hon- or Graduates. \*\*Denotes High Honor Graduates.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Holmes County Consolidated School District will hold a public hearing on its proposed school district budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 on July 9th at 10:00 am at the Holmes County Consolidated School District Central Office, 313 Olive Street, Lexington, MS. The Holmes County Consolidated School District is now operating with a projected total revenue budget of \$23,002,684. Of that amount 27 percent or \$6,142,342 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$22,299,723 of that amount, 29 percent or \$6,388,036 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

For the next fiscal year, the proposed increase in ad valorem tax effort by Holmes County Consolidated School District may result in an increase in the ad valorem tax millage rate. Ad valorem taxes are paid on homes, automobile tags, business fixtures and equipment, and rental real property.

Any citizen of the Holmes County Consolidated School District is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed ad valorem tax effort, and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

/s/ James L. Henderson  
Dr. James L. Henderson,  
Superintendent of Education  
Holmes County Consolidated School District  
Lexington, MS 39095

### 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report City of Durant PWS ID# 0260006 June 2020

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. Included are details about from where your water comes, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water and to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies. Our water source is groundwater. Our wells draw from the Meridian Upper Wilcox aquifer.

A Source Water Assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of the drinking water supply and to identify potential sources of contamination. The general susceptibility rankings assigned to each well of this system are provided immediately below. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water supply and is available upon request. The wells for The City of Durant have received moderate to higher susceptibility rankings to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Mayor Henry Robinson at 662 653-3221. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held at 6:30 P.M. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at city hall.

We routinely monitor for over 150 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected in the last round of sampling for the particular contaminant group. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 through December 31, (2019). As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. All drinking water, including bottled water may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)* - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)* - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Action Level (AL)* - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)* - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)* - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS							
Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	2018	N	0.0758	NO RANGE	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	2017	N	0.1	0	AL=1.3		Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb) (90 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	2017	N	1	0	AL=15		Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Asbestos (fiber> 10 micrometers)	2019	N	<0.18 MFL	NO RANGE	7 MFL	7 MFL	Decay of asbestos cement in water mains; erosion of natural deposits
Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Contaminants							
Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range of detects	MCLG/MCL		Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM (ppb) [Total Trihalomethanes]	2019	N	14	No Range	0 / 80		By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb) [Total Haloacetic Acids]	2017	N	21	No Range	0 / 60		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	2019	N	1.20	1.13-1.22	0 / MRDL =4		Water additive used to control microbes
Unregulated Contaminants							
Contaminant (units)	Sample Date	MCL Violation Y/N	Your Water	Range Low High	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Sodium (ppb)	2019	N	93000	No Range	None	None	Road Salt, Water treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents

*\*Most Recent Sample. No sample required for 2019*

To comply with the "Regulation Governing Fluoridation of Community Water Supplies", MS0260006 is required to report certain results pertaining to fluoridation of our water system. The number of months in the previous calendar year in which average fluoride sample results were within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 was 0. The percentage of fluoride samples collected in the previous calendar year that was within the optimal range of 0.6-1.2 was 0%.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants monthly. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. To ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any samples prior to the end of the monitoring period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Durant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Laboratory offers lead testing for \$10 per sample. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The City of Durant works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.