

HB333 INTRODUCED



1 JAQ4YF-1
2 By Representatives Garrett, Collins
3 RFD: Education Policy
4 First Read: 18-Apr-23
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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Program to allow local boards of education to adopt a modified school calendar and to offset the associated costs with grant funds.

This bill would provide for the administration of the program by the State Department of Education.

This bill would create the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund and the Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration Fund as special funds within the State Treasury.

This bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt rules and procedures for implementing the program, including application requirements.

This bill would provide eligibility criteria for local boards of education to participate in the grant program and limitations on participation.

This bill would also require the State Board of Education to provide a comprehensive report on the use of funds distributed under the grant program annually to the Governor and the Legislature.

A BILL



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29 TO BE ENTITLED

30 AN ACT

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32 To establish the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant
33 Program; to allow local boards of education to adopt a
34 modified school calendar and to offset the associated costs
35 with grants awarded through the program; to require the State
36 Department of Education to administer the program; to create
37 the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund and the
38 Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration Fund within
39 the State Treasury; to require the State Board of Education to
40 adopt rules for implementing the program; to provide
41 application and eligibility criteria for local boards of
42 education to participate; and to provide for annual reporting
43 on the use of funds by the State Board of Education.

44 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

45 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
46 the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Program.

47 Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of
48 the following:

49 (1) A modified K-12 public school calendar apportioning
50 required instructional days throughout the year would increase
51 student achievement and engagement and provide staff with a
52 more flexible schedule.

53 (2) It is the intent of this act to allow local boards
54 of education to adopt a modified school calendar and offset
55 any costs associated with the modification through a grant.

56 Section 3. For purposes of this act, the following



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57 terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context
58 requires otherwise:

59 (1) BOARD. The State Board of Education.

60 (2) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

61 (3) FUNDING FORMULA. The formula used for determining
62 the amount of funding for the grant program annually.

63 (4) GRANT PROGRAM. The Alabama Modified School Calendar
64 Grant Program established by this act.

65 (5) INTERSESSION. The multi-week break between
66 scheduled school sessions during which the local board of
67 education shall provide intensive tutoring, additional
68 supports, and enrichment activities for all students who
69 choose to participate in those activities.

70 (6) LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION. All city and county
71 boards of education and governing boards of charter schools.

72 (7) MODIFIED SCHOOL CALENDAR. A nontraditional school
73 calendar in which the length of summer break is shortened,
74 there are breaks dispersed throughout the academic school
75 year, and required instructional days are evenly distributed
76 across the calendar year.

77 (8) TIME REQUIREMENTS. A minimum of 30 additional
78 instructional days per calendar year.

79 Section 4. (a) There is established the Alabama
80 Modified School Calendar Grant Program which shall be
81 administered by the department for the purpose of offsetting
82 initial costs incurred by local boards of education which have
83 implemented or intend to implement a modified school calendar
84 pursuant to this act.



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85 (b) The Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund is
86 created in the State Treasury to receive appropriations from
87 the Legislature for funding grants provided by this act. The
88 Legislature shall make appropriations to this fund in amounts
89 sufficient to fully fund the projected amount of grants to be
90 made the proceeding fiscal year. Any monies remaining in the
91 fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall
92 remain in the fund and are reappropriated for the purposes
93 authorized by this act.

94 (c) The Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration
95 Fund is created in the State Treasury for the administration
96 of the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Program by the
97 department. The three percent of the amount appropriated each
98 fiscal year to the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund
99 shall be transferred each fiscal year from the Alabama
100 Modified School Calendar Grant Fund to the Alabama Modified
101 School Calendar Administration Fund. The expenses incurred by
102 the department in carrying out this act shall be paid from
103 monies in the Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration
104 Fund. The Legislature may make additional appropriations to
105 the Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration Fund upon
106 a showing of the need for additional monies in the
107 administration of the grant program. Any monies remaining in
108 the administration fund at the end of each fiscal year shall
109 revert to the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund.

110 (d) No monies shall be withdrawn or expended from the
111 funds created in this section for any purpose unless the
112 monies have been appropriated by the Legislature and allocated



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113 pursuant to this act. Any monies appropriated shall be
114 budgeted and allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in
115 accordance with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of
116 Chapter 4 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the
117 amounts provided by the Legislature in the general
118 appropriations act or other appropriations act.

119 (e) Subject to this act and any other applicable state
120 law, a local board of education that receives a grant may use
121 the funds provided through this grant program in a manner that
122 best facilitates the plan established by the local board of
123 education to adopt, transition to, and maintain a modified
124 school calendar for the schools under its jurisdiction.

125 Section 5. (a) The board shall do all of the following:

126 (1) Inform all local boards of education about the
127 availability and benefits of the grant program.

128 (2) Within six months following the effective date of
129 this act, adopt rules and develop procedures for the
130 department to administer, implement, and maintain the grant
131 program including, but not limited to, application
132 requirements.

133 (3) Commencing with the 2024-2025 academic year, and
134 subject to appropriations, award local boards of education
135 meeting the requirements of the program a grant for expenses
136 related to the adoption or maintenance of a modified school
137 calendar. Initial grant awards shall be made by August 1,
138 2024, and August 1 of each year thereafter.

139 (b) The department shall administer the grant program
140 with existing personnel and resources and may not contract for



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141 external support.

142 (c) An application from a local board of education for
143 an award from the grant program shall include all of the
144 following:

145 (1) The rationale for adopting a modified school
146 calendar, including any relevant short and long term goals of
147 the local board of education which a modified calendar may
148 help achieve.

149 (2) Evidence of community support and engagement to
150 adopt a modified school calendar.

151 (3) A detailed budget of operating expenses expected to
152 be incurred as a result of adopting a modified calendar.

153 (4) A detailed calendar, including plans for any
154 intersession activities.

155 (d) Grants awarded pursuant to the program shall be
156 used for expenses incurred as a direct result of the adoption
157 of the modified school calendar including, but not limited to,
158 any of the following:

159 (1) Transportation.

160 (2) Certified and noncertified staffing during
161 intersessions.

162 (3) Remediation and enrichment programs during
163 intersession.

164 (4) Other existing expenses incurred during
165 intersessions.

166 Section 6. (a) Eligible school districts shall include
167 those which implement a modified school calendar by the
168 beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year.



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169 (b) The amount awarded each year shall be based on a
170 funding formula developed by the department that multiplies
171 the number of participating students by the per student
172 allocation set in the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant
173 line item in the annual education budget. Each local board of
174 education shall submit to the department a plan that details
175 the number of students in the school district that the local
176 board of education oversees, and other factors that may
177 increase the cost of delivery of services, including the rural
178 nature of the local board of education.

179 (c) The amount of each award shall not exceed the
180 actual budget submitted by the local board of education
181 related to modified school calendar costs.

182 (d) Grant funds received by a local board of education
183 pursuant to this act may not be used to purchase land,
184 construct new facilities, or to finance or satisfy any
185 existing debt of the local board of education.

186 Section 7. On or before October 1 annually, the State
187 Board of Education shall provide a comprehensive report on the
188 use of funds distributed under the grant program, including
189 eligibility criteria and any data relating to the
190 effectiveness of using a modified school calendar, to the
191 Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the
192 House of Representatives, and the Chairs of the Senate Finance
193 and Taxation Education Committee, Senate Education Policy
194 Committee, House Ways and Means Education Committee, and
195 House Education Policy Committee.

196 Section 8. This act shall become effective on the first



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197 day of the third month following its passage and approval by
198 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.