

WARNING: Every person who knowingly signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, signs more than one of these petitions relating to the same initiative measure, signs this petition when he or she is not a qualified elector or makes any false statement on this petition may be punished by fine, imprisonment, or both.

**• PETITION FOR INITIATIVE MEASURE •
TO AMEND THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION**

TO THE HONORABLE DELBERT HOSEMANN, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

We, the undersigned citizens and qualified electors of the State of Mississippi, respectfully direct that this petition and the proposed measure known as **Initiative Measure No. 42**, entitled **Should the State be required to provide for the support of an adequate and efficient system of free public schools?**, a full, true and correct copy of which is printed or attached to this petition, be transmitted to the Legislature of the State of Mississippi at its next ensuing regular session, and we respectfully petition the Legislature to adopt the proposed measure; and each of us for himself or herself says: *"I have personally signed this petition, I am a qualified elector of the State of Mississippi in the city (or town), county, and congressional district written after my name, my residence address is correctly stated and I have knowingly signed this petition only once."*

Ballot Summary
Initiative 42 would protect each child's fundamental right to educational opportunity through the 12th grade by amending Section 201 of the Mississippi Constitution to require that the State must provide and the legislature must fund an adequate and efficient system of free public schools. This initiative would also authorize the chancery courts of this State to enforce this section with appropriate injunctive relief.

SIGNATURE <i>(include middle initial)</i>	STREET ADDRESS CITY/TOWN	COUNTY	PRINTED NAME <i>(include middle initial)</i>	DATE SIGNED	Precinct	Cong. Dist.
1.						
2.						
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CERTIFICATE OF PETITION CIRCULATOR:

INSTRUCTIONS: Petition circulators must sign and complete all blanks.

I hereby certify that I am a resident of the State of Mississippi during the time at which this petition is being circulated.

Signature of Circulator: _____ Printed name: _____
 Current physical address: _____ City, State and Zip: _____
 Current telephone number: _____ Date signed: _____

HERE is the entire BETTER SCHOOLS AMENDMENT:

Section 201: Educational opportunity for public school children

To protect each child's fundamental right to educational opportunity, the State shall provide for the establishment, maintenance and support of an adequate and efficient system of free public schools. The chancery courts of this State shall have the power to enforce this section with appropriate injunctive relief.

Amount and Source of Revenue Required to Implement the Initiative:

For the purposes of the initiative, a minimum standard of contemporary adequate education is described by the funding formula of the current version of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program and an efficient education is one that will, among other things, enable Mississippi's public school graduates to compete favorably with their counterparts in surrounding states.

Funding the initiative will not require a reduction in, elimination of, or reallocation of funding from any currently funded programs. The initiative will be funded by maintaining current funding levels for public education through the 12th grade adjusted for inflation, and then devoting to public education not less than 25% of future increases in general fund and other tax collections in order to achieve the constitutionally required level of adequacy and efficiency in the public educational system by a target date of Fiscal Year 2022 and maintain it in the future. For example, the state's general fund revenues are projected to increase over Fiscal Year 2014 levels by approximately 3% annually, which will produce an additional \$150 million in Fiscal Year 2015. Twenty-five percent of that would be \$37.5 million. A similar amount for seven years could reach the additional \$265 million a year in current dollars which will be needed to provide Mississippi's public school students with an education that is adequate and efficient by contemporary standards. This initiative is not intended to restrict or meaningfully reduce the overall percentage of general fund revenues devoted to public schools, which at present is approximately 40%. If enforcement is necessary, injunctive relief will be the preferred remedy.

INTENT: It is the intent of this Amendment to require provision for the support of an adequate and efficient system of free public schools.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CIRCULATORS:

1. Read and obey the relevant laws, in MS Code of 1972 (Ann) Section 23, Chapter 17, which can be reviewed online at <http://michie.com/mississippi/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-h.htm&cp=>.
2. **Only registered voters** in Mississippi are to sign petitions (and only once).
3. Please use **BLACK** ballpoint pens.
4. Be sure to ask your friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to sign and circulate petitions.
5. Be sure to use **separate pages for separate counties**.
6. Petitions do not need to be full of signatures to be turned in (i.e. you don't have to have all 10 signatures in order to turn in a petition.)
7. You can make photocopies of blank petitions and circulate them, but be sure that they are *legal-sized* and copied on *both sides*.
8. If signers don't know their precincts or congressional districts (the last two boxes), they can leave them blank.

Email: petitions@BetterMS.org
Telephone: 769-524-6818

Website: www.BetterMS.org

Better Schools, Better Jobs
#2 Old River Place, Suite B
Jackson MS 39202