

By: Nunnelee

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2745

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-23-147, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL  
3 RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS FOR PROVIDING FULL INCLUSION OF  
4 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN ALL ASPECTS OF ACADEMIC AND  
5 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 37-23-147, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:[LR1]

9 37-23-147. (1) The State Department of Education shall  
10 establish goals for the performance of children with disabilities  
11 that will promote the purpose of IDEA and are consistent, to the  
12 maximum extent appropriate, with other goals and standards for  
13 children established by the State Department of Education.  
14 Performance indicators used to assess progress toward achieving  
15 those goals that, at a minimum, address the performance of  
16 children with disabilities on assessments, drop-out rates, and  
17 graduation rates shall be developed. Every two (2) years, the  
18 progress toward meeting the established performance goals shall be  
19 reported to the public.

20 (2) To encourage the full inclusion of children with  
21 disabilities in all aspects of academic and extracurricular  
22 activities, the State Department of Education shall provide  
23 special recognition to the schools receiving such designation and  
24 their school districts. Examples of such recognition may include,  
25 but not be limited to: public announcements and events,  
26 certificates of recognition and plaques for teachers, principals,  
27 superintendents and parents, and media announcements utilizing the

28 services of Mississippi Educational Television. This special  
29 recognition shall be awarded to one (1) elementary, one (1) middle  
30 school, and one (1) high school, based on entries submitted to the  
31 Mississippi Advisory Committee for Special Education by the  
32 deadline of March 31. These entries shall be in the form of a  
33 report, not to exceed five (5) pages, listing name, address and  
34 telephone number of the school district/school; teacher or staff  
35 responsible for administering the program; type of position held  
36 by each of these employees including credentials; description of  
37 the program; number of students with disabilities included; type  
38 and level of severity of disabilities; number of students without  
39 disabilities involved in the program; how long the program has  
40 been in operation; benefit of program to all students; and a  
41 description of how this program could be replicated by other  
42 school districts. Winners of the Exemplary Inclusion Program  
43 contest shall be chosen by the Mississippi Advisory Committee for  
44 Special Education in April of each year.

45 Recognition shall be given to these schools during the May  
46 Mississippi State Board of Education meeting each year.  
47 Information on these exemplary programs shall be provided to other  
48 school districts and the general public through news releases, the  
49 state department website, and other similar avenues.

50 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
51 and after July 1, 2000.