

By: Nunnelee

To: Education

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) In accordance with individuals with Disabilities
21 Education Act (IDEA) regulation 300.550, it is the policy of the
22 Mississippi Department of Education that each child with a
23 disability be educated with children having no disabilities in
24 his/her age range to the maximum extent appropriate, including
25 children in public or private institutions or other care
26 facilities. No special classes, separate schools or other removal
27 of children with disabilities from the regular educational

28 environment shall occur unless the nature or severity of the
29 disability is such that education in regular classes with the use
30 of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved
31 satisfactorily. Students with disabilities are afforded an equal
32 opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular
33 services and activities. Local school districts and other
34 agencies who provide special education and related services to
35 children with disabilities are required to adopt this policy and
36 the procedures necessary to implement it.

37 (3) To encourage the full inclusion of children with
38 disabilities in all aspects of academic and extracurricular
39 activities, the State Department of Education shall provide
40 special recognition to the schools receiving such designation and
41 their school districts. Examples of such recognition may include,
42 but not be limited to: public announcements and events,
43 certificates of recognition and plaques for teachers, principals,
44 superintendents and parents, and media announcements utilizing the
45 services of Mississippi Educational Television. This special
46 recognition shall be awarded to one (1) elementary, one (1) middle
47 school, and one (1) high school, based on entries submitted to the
48 Mississippi Advisory Committee for Special Education by the
49 deadline of March 31. These entries shall be in the form of a
50 report, not to exceed five (5) pages, listing name, address and
51 telephone number of the school district/school; teacher or staff
52 responsible for administering the program; type of position held
53 by each of these employees including credentials; description of
54 the program; number of students with disabilities included; type
55 and level of severity of disabilities; number of students without
56 disabilities involved in the program; how long the program has
57 been in operation; benefit of program to all students; and a
58 description of how this program could be replicated by other
59 school districts. Winners of the Exemplary Inclusion Program
60 contest shall be chosen by the Mississippi Advisory Committee for
61 Special Education in April of each year.

62 Recognition shall be given to these schools during the May
63 Mississippi State Board of Education meeting each year.
64 Information on these exemplary programs shall be provided to other

65 school districts and the general public through news releases, the
66 state department website, and other similar avenues.

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