

By: Nunnelee

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2745
(As Passed the Senate)

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.