

By: Representative Malone

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1447

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL SCHOOL AT THE WALNUT GROVE YOUTH  
2 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; TO DESCRIBE THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND  
3 CURRICULUM THAT MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SCHOOL; TO  
4 PROVIDE THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE SPECIAL SCHOOL SHALL BE THE  
5 WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITY; TO REQUIRE THE SCHOOL BOARD  
6 TO APPOINT A PRINCIPAL FOR THE SCHOOL; TO PROVIDE FOR FUNDING FOR  
7 THE SPECIAL SCHOOL BY LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION; TO PROVIDE FOR  
8 THE EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION OF TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY THE  
9 SPECIAL SCHOOL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** There is created a special school for a special  
12 population to be located on the grounds of the Walnut Grove Youth  
13 Correctional Facility. The purpose of the special school is to  
14 meet the educational needs of the juvenile offenders housed in the  
15 facility by providing each student with an opportunity to develop  
16 educational, vocational and living skills.

17 **SECTION 2.** (1) The program of education at the special  
18 school must be designed to meet each student's individual  
19 educational needs, regardless of the student's grade level. The  
20 special school shall prepare a written Individual Education  
21 Program (IEP) or portfolio for each student.

22 (2) The special school must meet appropriate State  
23 Department of Education accreditation standards, as determined by  
24 the State Board of Education. The special school will be a  
25 special alternative program for a special population. Training in  
26 the following areas must be included in the special school's  
27 curriculum: computer literacy; workplace readiness; life skills;  
28 drug and alcohol education; and physical education.

29 (3) The special school shall provide a program of general  
30 educational development (GED) preparatory instruction, which



31 program must be administered in compliance with the rules and  
32 regulations established for such programs under Sections 37-35-1  
33 through 37-35-11 and by the State Board for Community and Junior  
34 Colleges. The special school may administer the General  
35 Educational Development (GED) Testing Program under the policies  
36 and guidelines of the GED Testing Service of the American Council  
37 on Education. Upon a determination by the special school that it  
38 is in a student's best interest for that student to receive GED  
39 preparatory instruction, the special school shall assign the  
40 student to the GED program.

41 (4) The special school, in its discretion, may authorize  
42 postsecondary academic or vocational courses, or both, to be  
43 offered to students in the correctional facility who have been  
44 awarded a high school diploma or GED equivalent. However, no  
45 state funds may be expended to provide such course offerings  
46 unless the educational programs for Kindergarten through Grade 12  
47 have been fully funded.

48 **SECTION 3.** The school board of the special school shall be  
49 the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority. The relationship between  
50 the correctional authority, as school board of the special school,  
51 and the State Board of Education shall be the same as that between  
52 other special schools in the state and the State Board of  
53 Education. The school board shall exercise the same powers,  
54 duties and responsibilities prescribed under Title 37, Mississippi  
55 Code of 1972, and by rules and regulations of the State Board of  
56 Education for all local school boards.

57 **SECTION 4.** (1) There is established the position of  
58 principal of the special school, which position must be filled by  
59 the appointment of the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority, as  
60 school board of the special school. The special school principal  
61 shall be directly responsible to, and shall serve at the will and  
62 pleasure of, the school board. The principal must possess the  
63 qualifications required of all school principals and any other



64 qualifications that may be specified by the school board or State  
65 Board of Education.

66 (2) The relationship between the special school principal  
67 and correctional authority, as school board of the special school,  
68 and the State Board of Education shall be the same as that between  
69 other special school principals and the State Board of Education.

70 (3) The school principal shall have the general  
71 responsibility for administering and supervising the educational  
72 programs of the special school. In addition, the principal shall  
73 have the specific duty of submitting the school's annual  
74 educational budget recommendations, as adopted in final form by  
75 the school board, to the State Board of Education. The budget  
76 must be based on any funds available to the school for educational  
77 purposes.

78 **SECTION 5.** Funding for the educational programs shall be by  
79 appropriation of the Legislature specifically for the educational  
80 programs at the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility, and  
81 those funds may not be used for any other purpose at that facility  
82 or any other facility operated under contract with or by the  
83 Mississippi Department of Corrections.

84 **SECTION 6.** The school board and principal shall establish a  
85 salary schedule for teachers employed by the special school, with  
86 consideration given to the unique educational environment of the  
87 special school within a correctional facility. All teachers  
88 employed by the special school must possess a license to teach  
89 issued by the State Department of Education.

90 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
91 and after July 1, 2002.

