

**OFFICE OF CHIEF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**April 21, 2016**

**OFFICE OF DISTRICT ACCREDITATION**

- L. Action: Change in Accreditation Status for Walnut Grove Correctional School from PENDING TO VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

Background Information: In accordance with Accreditation Policy 5.0 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards*, a nonpublic school may voluntarily withdraw from the accreditation process at any time without prejudice by submitting a written request signed by the school board chairperson or presiding officer of the governing body or policy-making authority and the chief school administrator. When a nonpublic school voluntarily withdraws from the accreditation process, all school records are moved to the inactive files and remain on file with the Mississippi Department of Education as a previously State Board of Education accredited nonpublic school.

The Office of District Accreditation received a letter from Jerry Williams, Deputy Commissioner of Institutions, Mississippi Department of Corrections, on March 31, 2016, requesting that Walnut Grove Correctional School voluntarily withdraw from the nonpublic school accreditation process for the 2015-2016 school year due to a change in the offender population.

Walnut Grove Correctional School, located within the Walnut Grove Correctional Facility, has been providing educational services for offenders 18 years of age and older. There is no longer a large number of youthful offenders housed at this facility. The Youthful Offender Unit (YOU) School, an accredited school at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, was established to provide educational services to offenders under 18 years of age and to those youthful offenders deemed to be vulnerable youth.

This item references Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Approval

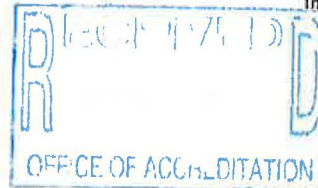
Back-up material attached



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
**MARSHAL FISHER**  
COMMISSIONER

Jerry J. Williams  
Deputy Commissioner

Institutions Division  
(601) 359-5610



March 31, 2016

Office of Accreditation  
Mississippi Department of Education  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Office of Accreditation:

The offender population housed at Walnut Grove Correctional Facility (WGCF) has changed. There is no longer a large number of youthful offenders housed at this facility. The Youthful Offender Unit School, which is an accredited school, was established at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility to provide educational services to those offenders under 18 years of age and to those youthful offenders deemed to be vulnerable youth.

Without a significant youthful offender population to serve, WGCF wishes to withdraw from seeking educational accreditation for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) will use reliable screening methods and ensure timely evaluation of individuals ages 18-21 to determine whether they are in need of special education and related services, if applicable promptly obtain IEPs and other related education records, and provide them education services in accordance with a FAPE.

Sincerely,

Jerry Williams  
Deputy Commissioner of Institutions

CC: Commissioner Marshall Fisher  
Tony Compton, Director Private & Regional Prisons  
Lepher Jenkins, WGCF Warden  
Pat Owen, Acting Director of Treatment and Programs  
File

JW/po