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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** MADER  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** TECHNOLOGY STATS FROM 5/10/01 EDUCATION WEEK  
**DATE:** MAY 14, 2001  
**CC:** BOYD  
FILE

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The most current issue of Education Week focuses on technology inequities among states and classrooms. A few stats (2000 data) from the publication are below. **The bold indicates where MS beat the national average.** I think we could use the other stats to show the importance of technology and the need to have a computer in every classroom.

- Mississippi is one of 26 states that have technology requirements in place that teachers must meet prior to initial licensure. Tennessee is the only contiguous state with such requirements.
- 88% of Mississippi schools have Internet access (2000); 94% of US School have internet access
- 75% of Mississippi schools have Internet access from one or more classrooms; 82% for US
- Among Mississippi schools with at least one classroom connected to the Internet, 70% of other classrooms have Internet access; US is at 80%
- **Of Mississippi schools with Internet access, 69% connect through a T1 or cable modem; US rate is 67%**
- 88% of MS schools make computers available to students after hours; U.S. rate is 93%
- 59% of MS schools make computers available to parents/community members; U.S. is 71%
- MS is one of 15 states that offer professional or financial incentives to teachers to use technology (2001 data) and 1 of 11 to offer such incentives to administrators.
- In 37% of MS schools, the majority of teachers are “beginners” when it comes to using technology; the US average is 28%
- **46% of MS 4<sup>th</sup> graders’ language arts teachers use computer software for reading instruction at least once a week (1998 data); the U.S. average is only 26%**

- 6% of MS 8<sup>th</sup> graders' language arts teachers use computer software for reading instruction at least once a week (1998 data); the U.S. average is only 8%
- **35% of MS 4<sup>th</sup> graders use a computer for schoolwork at least once or twice a week (1998 data); the U.S. average is only 29%**
- **46% of MS 8<sup>th</sup> graders use a computer for schoolwork at least once or twice a week (1998 data); the U.S. average is only 38%**
- 64% of MS schools have at least 50% of their teachers use a computer daily for planning and/or teaching (2000 data); the U.S. average is 76% of schools
- **65% of MS schools have at least 50% of their teachers using the Internet for instruction (2000 data); the U.S. average is only 63% of schools**
- 54% of MS schools have at least 50% of their teachers with a school-based email address; the U.S. average is 77%
- MS is cited on p. 67 of the publication in an article that discusses the aggressive steps that some states have taken to improve technology use in schools. The article states that "all of the state's schools are now linked to the Internet and to one another through a statewide network that also connects them to state agencies, community colleges and universities. The final school to be linked to the network was hooked up in December of last year. 'Rural states recognize how important[connecting to the Internet] is,' says Helen Soule. It can be a lifeline for a community." Page 68 goes on to say, "In Mississippi, Soule says, state efforts to negotiate uniform rates for all districts through the state's primary telecommunications provider, BellSouth, as meant that rural districts are paying less than \$500 a month for T1 lines that would otherwise likely cost between \$1,200 and \$2,000 a month. Such lines allow for faster Internet service than telephone connections. 'A T1 in Jackson and a T1 in Coffeerville cost the same amount,' Soule says. 'So school districts are not punished for being farther away from the larger cities.' "

I have copied and attached Mississippi's state summary, which discusses the Governor's initiative.