

The State of Mississippi seeks to acquire 6,000 to 12,000 personal computers and related services to support Governor Musgrove's initiative of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002. The State wishes to, in cooperation with the awarded Vendor(s), purchase additional computers on behalf of individual schools within the state. The number of additional computers is unknown and is dependent upon the available funds of individual schools.

Mississippi has laid a strong foundation for education and desires to continue to take sound and innovative measures to strengthen the schools within our state. Technology and the World Wide Web offer exceptional educational resources for Mississippi's school children and teachers. The public and private sectors, working together, have the capability to make technology and Internet resources available to Mississippi's school children and teachers.

Reaching Governor Musgrove's goal achieves two objectives: (1) enhancing the educational experience for students and (2) helping bridge the digital divide for our people. **To date, no state has accomplished this goal.** To assist with this achievement, Governor Musgrove and his Classroom Technology Task Force are seeking vendors who are willing and able to partner with the state to strengthen Mississippi's educational system. The State is requesting that vendors offer aggressive discounts, creative pricing arrangements, and value-added products and services. **Governor Musgrove will publicly recognize the awarded Vendor(s) for its contributions to improving the quality of life in this state.**