

MEMORANDUM

February 19, 2003

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Meeting with State Board of Education

I spoke with Kelly about this meeting. The board will be thanking you for your work in education, and you will have an opportunity to speak briefly about the education budget and educational priorities.

Points of reference:

- State of the State address: Challenged legislature to join me in fight to make education our top priority
- Asked them to fund education at 62% and to fund it early
- That was January 9 / signed the education funding bill February 5
 - HISTORIC ACTION
 - UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION
 - MISSISSIPPI IS MOVING FORWARD
- Best way to deal with impact of national recession is education
- Comprehensive plan for education
 - Funding education at 62%
 - Fully funding MAEP for the first time
 - Funds teacher pay raise
 - Addresses needs of higher education
- We are making a difference
 - Teacher pay from 49th to 19th
 - Computers in the Classroom/ NGA says first in the nation/ MS “at head of wave of technological innovation”
 - MS one of six states for “Following the Leaders”/ No Child Left Behind
 - Leadership Summit/six priorities from early childhood to adult learning
 - Princeton Review - #6 best testing in the nation

- Investments in education benefit every Mississippian, not just students
 - People want to live in good communities
 - Good schools, good jobs, good communities

- Those are the results of good leadership
 - Those are the results our people demand and deserve

- Gone are the days when we:
 - Fund education the last week of the session
 - School children compete for funding with convicted felons in our prisons
 - Shortchange our schools
 - Shortchange our future

- We've entered a new era