

Dear Superintendent:

On February 8, 2000, we launched into a visionary goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every public k-12 classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002. We have been successful! 32,354 public school classrooms have an Internet-accessible computer. The National Governor's Association has confirmed that Mississippi is the first state in the nation to have an Internet-accessible computer in every public classroom.

As you know, teachers are able to incorporate the greatest information resource that we have ever known into their classroom curricula. This enhances every child's educational experience. These computers provide opportunities for our children to learn more, earn more, and prepare for tomorrow's jobs.

Although this goal is complete, our work together is not complete. We must continue our fight for strong investments in education. I have asked the Legislature to fund education at 62% of the general fund. This represents a \$300 million increase over the current appropriations for k-12, community and junior colleges, and universities. This increase also includes fully funding our teacher pay package that will increase our state's average pay from 49th to 19th in the nation.

We have seen our test scores improve. More students are going to college than ever before. The businesses are moving into and growing in Mississippi. Let's continue our work together by securing 62% of the general fund for education. Families across this state need our help to improve education in Mississippi because we all know, "Good schools bring good jobs that build good communities."

Call your local representative and senator to express your support for fully funding education at 62% of the state's general fund!

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

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