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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MDE/STATE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENTS  
**DATE** 8/23/01  
**CC:** FILE

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The attached contains the correspondence between the Gulf Coast Education Initiative, the State Board, Dr. Thompson and Dr. Larry Drawdy. The documents are as follows:

1. The Gulf Coast Education Initiative's original report of concerns and recommendations regarding testing to the State Board.
2. Rowan Taylor's response to the Gulf Coast Education Initiative, which criticizes their attitude and alleges that such attitude is driven by 2 or 3 members of the Initiative. (NOTE: The letter does have a slightly inflammatory tone.)
3. Letter from Madelon Gruich, President of the Biloxi School Board, to Rowan Taylor expressing her board's support for Larry Drawdy and her fear that anyone who does not agree with the state will be attacked personally.
4. Letter from Larry Drawdy to Rowan Taylor expressing his principles, expectations, concerns and beliefs regarding testing.
5. 6/22/01 Letter from Richard Thompson to Larry Drawdy citing inaccurate statements that Mr. Drawdy made during a Senate Education Committee meeting in June.
6. 8/3/01 Response from Drawdy back to Thompson explaining his statements at the Senate Education Committee meeting. Drawdy is very detailed in his explanation and his concerns.
7. 8/6/01 Letter from Richard Thompson to Larry Drawdy acknowledging his response.
8. 7/25/01 Letter from Larry Drawdy to Mike Mulvihill, MDE Vocational Compliance and Reporting Director, inquiring as to MDE's disapproval of 2 new vo-tech program requests. MDE disapproved funding due to "funds not available," although the department had earlier indicated that the programs would receive approval.
9. 7/5/01 letter from Dewey Herring of the Gulf Coast Education Initiative assuring Thompson that the Initiative's original report simply summarized concerns with and suggestions for a smoother test administration in the future.

**Dr. Thompson, A.M. Ziedman (pronounced Zideman) and Rowan Taylor have accepted your invitation for breakfast Monday morning. Kenny Bush (Yates management meeting conflict) and Frank Melton declined.**