

Education has long been Governor Musgrove's priority. Governor Musgrove released his FY 04 executive budget recommendation on November 14, 2002. In preparing his budget recommendations, the Governor funded education first and then funded other agencies with remaining revenues. Governor Musgrove's recommendations funded education at a level of \$2.4 billion, or 62% of the budget. Governor's Musgrove recommended approximately \$525 million in general funds for IHL. By comparison, the legislature's budget recommended \$473 million, approximately \$51 million less, for IHL's FY 04 operations.

Governor Musgrove called on the Legislature during this State of the State address to appropriate pre-kindergarten through higher education in one comprehensive bill at 62% of the general fund and to send the appropriation bill to his desk for his signature during the first month of the legislative session, rather than during the last two weeks as has been tradition.

Because of Governor Musgrove's leadership, kindergarten through graduate level education was fully funded for FY 2004 during the first month of the 2003 legislative session at an increase of \$300 million above FY 2003 appropriations. The Legislature passed the education appropriation bills on January 31, 2003, and Governor Musgrove signed them on February 5, 2003. Funding education first builds on our successes and prioritizes our investment in the future.