

July 31, 2001

The Honorable Rod Paige  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Paige:

Please accept this letter of support for the Mississippi Department of Education's High School Reform Grant Proposal. With funding from this grant, Mississippi will be able to restructure high schools to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. Mississippi's students need to be given the opportunity to compete with top students worldwide.

The focus on integrating academic and vocational skills through a challenging curriculum of study is at the heart of this proposal. Mississippi is ready to move our high schools forward with new and more rigorous standards and high expectations for all students.

I believe that the Mississippi Department of Education's proposal is worthy of your resources. I am pleased to offer support for this project. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr