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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** FOLLOWING THE LEADERS GRANT: PROPOSED PILOT SCHOOLS THAT MEET PROJECT  
ACHIEVE'S CRITERIA AND SPECS FOR PARTICIPATION  
**DATE:** 9/3/02  
**CC:** BOYD  
MAYO

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We received applications from 43 schools to participate in the Following the Leaders project. I forwarded these applications to Julie Moriarty at Project Achieve so that Achieve could conduct its analysis of those applications that met the technical specifications to participate. Project Achieve has identified the following 17 schools that meet the “willing,” “wired” and geographic criteria (90 mile radius):

<u>School</u>	<u>District</u>
Grenada Elementary	Grenada
Gentry High School	Indianola
Broad Street High School	North Bolivar
Simmons High School	Hollandale
John F. Kennedy High School	Mound Bayou
I.T. Montgomery Elementary	Mound Bayou
Ray Brooks School	Benoit
Brooks Elementary	North Bolivar
R.H. Bearden Elementary	West Tallahatchie
Pope Elementary	South Panola
Batesville Intermediate	South Panola
Batesville Middle School	South Panola
Batesville Jr. High	South Panola
Water Valley High School	Water Valley
T.R. Sanders Elementary	Hollandale
Duck Hill Elementary	Montgomery County
Hayes Cooper Center	Cleveland

15 schools may participate in the pilot project. Thus, we have to choose 15 of the above 17. Project Achieve plans to announce participating schools this Friday, September 6, so we have to choose the 15 quickly.

I know it is your home district, but I think we should pull Batesville Middle and Batesville Jr. High. South Panola would still have two schools participating in the project and these two schools serve elementary aged students where the program could be most effective in identifying scholastic weaknesses at an early age so that intervention could be applied. It could also hinder anyone from suggesting that we loaded the project up with South Panola schools.

If you agree that we should pull Batesville Middle and Jr. High, they will automatically be put at the top of the waiting list for the second cohort of schools and either or both could become a pilot school if any of the pilot 15 fail to meet the minimum requirements that must be met during the first 30 days of project participation.

Also, Reggie Barnes, Superintendent of the Cleveland Schools, had both Hayes Cooper and Bell Elementary apply from his district, but Project Achieve determined that Bell Elementary did not meet the “wired” criteria. I’m going to call Reggie to give him a “heads up” on this.

Please advise as to if we may select the above list, minus Batesville Middle and Batesville Jr. High schools, as the 15 pilot schools for the Following the Leaders initiative. If you do not wish to pull these two schools, please denote the two that you do want to pull, as we may only have 15 pilot schools. Thanks!