

Teacher Pay Raise  
Press Conference  
Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Remember to stand up straight and be mindful of your ums and uhs as you are being interviewed. You need to be pumped up for this. Use low tones. Be very emphatic with each sentence.

- Good Morning!
- Today, the people of the State of Mississippi have reason to celebrate.
- We set an unprecedented goal for ourselves, and we reached for unparalleled progress because we knew that our people deserved progress and were demanding results.
- Today, we have taken the right step for the people of Mississippi.
- Just moments ago, the members of the House passed a plan, raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average.
- We knew that passing a teacher pay raise plan was critical to the people of Mississippi.

- We knew that it was critical that we arm our children with the best education possible so that they are prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.
- We knew that it was critical that we pay our teachers and those people, who are considering entering the teaching profession, competitive salaries so that they can afford to share their knowledge and wisdom with our children.
- Today, we show the children, the teachers, the people of our state, and the entire nation that Mississippi is committed to education.
- We have faced our challenges head on, and we have made a bold step for the people of Mississippi by passing this teacher pay raise plan.
- We did it!
- We did it together!
- It is unprecedented to have representatives from this many different organizations come together

to support one single issue. (make reference to the people behind you)

(say to the people behind you)

- I thank you for your efforts, and I congratulate us all for coming together to make better opportunities, and a brighter future, for the people of Mississippi.
- After today's vote by the members of the house, the bill will be signed by the Speaker of the House, Tim Ford, by Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck and will then be placed on my desk.
- I want to assure you today, that I will proudly sign this teacher pay raise legislation.
- Thank you.