

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Congratulates New National Board Certified Teachers – Calls For Removal of 5% Growth Rate Condition On Teacher Pay Raises**

Jackson, Miss. – Governor Ronnie Musgrove served as host at a reception to honor Mississippi's 389 new teachers achieving National Board Certification Thursday afternoon. "Mississippi continues to rank among the top five states in sheer numbers of teachers achieving National Board Certification in the country," said Governor Musgrove.

During the press conference Governor Musgrove urged legislators to remove the five percent revenue growth condition on pay increases for Mississippi teachers. Mississippi's National Board Certification numbers are a resounding testament to our teachers' commitment to education. "Removing the five percent condition on pay increases would be a strong testament of our commitment to our teachers. The five percent condition on pay raises for teachers isn't a commitment – it's an excuse. By funding their raises every year, with no excuses, we show our commitment to them and to our students."

National Board Certification is the highest standard for the teaching profession. "The surge in the number of Mississippi teachers achieving the National Board Certification is wonderful news," said the Governor. "We offer our most sincere congratulations to the educators who made the decision to take on this rigorous challenge. This will make them better teachers and improve the quality of learning for Mississippi's students."

National Board Certification, a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes nearly a year to complete. It documents a teacher's subject matter knowledge, provides evidence that teachers know how to teach their subjects to students most effectively and demonstrates a teacher's ability to manage and measure student learning.

"Educating our children must be our first priority," said Governor Musgrove.

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