

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Works To Strengthen Education in Mississippi and the South

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove met yesterday with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and members of the Bush administration to discuss the implementation of the “No Child Left Behind” initiative in the South. Musgrove, chairman of the SREB, led the panel discussion, which included Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; Dr. Henry Johnson, Superintendent of the Mississippi Department of Education; Bush administration official Margaret Spellings and Sandy Kress, who served as President Bush’s chief negotiator with Congress on “No Child Left Behind.”

“As a direct result of our strong educational accountability programs, Mississippi is the first of the 16 SREB member states to have its plan approved for ‘No Child Left Behind’, Musgrove said. “We have made education our top priority by investing in our teachers, by investing in education before everything else, and by employing strong accountability standards to ensure that our investment is sound.”

Mississippi’s educational accountability program is ranked 12th in the nation. Musgrove expressed a desire to share the strategies Mississippi used to improve its public schools, and learn some new and different tactics from other governors.

“I want to share the success we’ve had in Mississippi with the rest of the South, as well as learn from the successes other states have had,” Musgrove said. “The fact is, education affects every child regardless of state or party lines, and I’m proud we are working together to make a better future for all of our children.”

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