

- The budget that the Governor has recommended shows a strong commitment to education.
- Investing in education is an investment in the future of our state.
- A better educated community is less likely to [insert here (go to prison, be on Medicaid, get in trouble with the law, etc.).
- During this national recession, we have been able to continue essential service to the people of Mississippi.
- Many of our counterparts across the nation have not done so well.
- Other states are cutting service, laying off employees or raising taxes.

Agencies facing shortfalls for '03:

- The Governor's recommendations for FY '04 are adequate to continue the critical services we provide to the people – while investing in our schools.
- During this national recession it is imperative that we all tighten our belts and use the best management tools we can so that we can continue the great success we have had in education under Governor Musgrove.
- The legislature under-funded (insert name here) for FY '03, and we are hopeful that they will be able to help us with this in the upcoming regular session.