

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, education has proven to be the key to long-term economic growth and well-being for any state; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Education Reform Act of 1982 signaled a new era for public education in Mississippi and improved the quality of education for children of the State; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Act, among other components, financed kindergarten, secured funding for teachers' aides, mandated school attendance, and established commissions on school accreditation standards and teacher accountability; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional programs and initiatives, including the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, increases in teacher pay, a performance-based accreditation system, new accountability standards, and the Governor's Computers in the Classroom Initiative, have since been implemented and continue to improve the quality of education for Mississippi's students; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi has been recognized nationally as a leader in education, including being sixth in the nation in the number of National Board Certified Teachers, being one of six states chosen to participate in the "Following the Leaders" project, and being ranked sixth by the *Princeton Review* for our testing system; and,

**WHEREAS**, we should always continue to seek to improve Mississippi's educational system for the betterment of our children and our state; and,

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Education Reform Act of 1982 today and honor its impact on Mississippi's educational system, as well as our state as a whole, and we look forward to an even brighter future.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in the spirit of the Education Reform Act of 1982, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the State of Mississippi's commitment to the future of our children through the promise of continued advancements in education.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, December 20, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR