

---

---

**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** COLE  
**FROM:** BOYD  
**SUBJECT:** COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM TASK FORCE  
**DATE:** 2/15/00  
**CC:** FILE

---

Per our meeting with Senator Chaney (2/9/00), the Governor should meet with Dr. Richard Thompson to discuss the creation of a task force to place computers in every classroom. This taskforce would initially include representatives from the State Department of Education, Department of Information Technology Services, Forum on Public Education, Mississippi Economic Council, Governor's Office, and House and Senate Education Leadership (i.e., Senator Mike Chaney and Representative Joe Warren or Cecil Brown).

Discussions arose during the meeting as to who would serve as project manager. MEC volunteered to provide said services. In discussions with Blake Wilson, I reiterated the possibility that a third party may be selected as a project manager. He agreed and offered to assist in any way possible.

The Governor should meet with Dr. Richard Thompson to discuss the task force and Education's involvement. I recommend that this meeting occur by Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, so that a press conference announcing the task force can be scheduled for early next week and work can begin.

The initial agenda would include a discussion of the funding needs and priorities for this project (i.e., equipment and training). According to Chaney, \$3.4 million is available from the Tax Diversion Fund. An additional \$1.6 million will be needed from the state for a total of \$5.0 million. We should expect to obtain at least \$5.0 million in private sources to complete the project.

Carolyn Shanks, CEO Entergy Mississippi, has also offered Entergy's assistance in this project. I would suggest that MEC and our private foundation interests (Pittman and Costa) begin identifying potential donors for this project.