
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: PILOT SITES FOR EXPLORNET COMPUTER RECYCLING PROJECT
DATE: 9/27/00
CC: COLE
SIMMONS
BOYD

ExplorNet is a 501©3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving technology in America's schools, particularly in traditionally under-served areas. ExporNet's computer recycling program (CPR) is a workforce development course that teaches students the skills they need to upgrade donated computers to state-of-the-art standards. Now in its third year, CPR is active in more than 80 North Carolina schools. The program has expanded to North Dakota, where six schools piloted the program this spring. The students deploy the machines they build into classrooms throughout their school district. The students can also serve as a tech-support team to maintain the computers. The program prepares the students for A+ Certification, an industry recognized training standard for computer service technicians.

At the request of North Carolina's Education Forum, ExplorNet has piloted two sites here in Mississippi for approximately two years. Those two sites are in Hollandale and Laurel. Through a grant from the Palmer Foundation, ExplorNet is now seeking to establish additional pilot sites in Mississippi. The number of additional sites is contingent upon community interest and resources in each of the proposed sites. The Department of Education has provided ExplorNet with a letter of support for the expansion.

ExplorNet has opened an office here in Jackson and has hired a state manager who will implement public-private partnership initiatives at the local level. Based upon input from the Department of Education as to technology needs of different schools ExplorNet is considering the following communities/schools as possible pilot sites:

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| Hernando | Natchez | Meridian |
| Pascagoula | Jackson | Pontotoc |
| Rosedale | Iuka | Ocean Springs |
| Lamar County | Pearl River County | Waynesboro |

ExplorNet has requested our office's input on the final selection of sites. I would advise that this program offers a lot of potential to schools. Please advise me by Friday, September 29, as to any comments you might have on any of the above sites. Thank you.