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

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** BOYD  
**SUBJECT:** COMPUTERS WITH [AOL@SCHOOL](#), EXPLORNET  
**DATE:** JUNE 29, 2001  
**CC:** RENICK, MAYO, RILEY

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Following your presentation at the Southeastern Council of Foundations, Dr. Terry Crane and I discussed a potential partnership with [AOL@School](#). You will recall that this is an interactive web site with education information for school-age children. Crane noted that the Mississippi Department of Education had been “dragging its heels” in signing on this project. AOL has already announced partnerships with 5 other states, Georgia and South Carolina recently.

I have asked for a meeting with the Superintendent, Helen Soule, Kelly Riley and AOL in early December to move this partnership along. AOL is prepared to brief the Superintendent and SDE Staff. Assuming that SDE is willing, I believe that you should announce this partnership in mid-January as children are returning to school and the legislature is in session.

Andrew Smith, ExplorNet, is planning 2 “blitz builds” during the legislative session and is seeking your advice and direction. ExplorNet operates nearly 20 sites where high school students build computers from kits that are then placed in classrooms and labs. Smith is looking for a date early in the session and for one near conference weekend. Smith notes that they are only seeking \$250,000 for administration and computer kits.

I believe that you could create a theme week in mid January to promote computers in the classrooms. AOL, ExplorNet, a couple of classroom visits, kick off of the Phase II campaign for computers.