

MEMO

To: Michael Boyd
From: Kelly Riley
Date: February 7, 2000
Subject: Fordice's Literacy Programs

Per your request Friday, below is a summary of literacy/educational programs contained in Fordice's legislative agendas, with a brief overview of each. I obtained this info from his State of the States for 1998 and 1999, but couldn't locate prior years' online:

- Mississippi Excellent School Act (1999 State of the State)– identified and granted financial incentives to low-performing schools that improved (any Level 1 school that improved to Level 2; Level 2 schools identified through an index of indicators developed by the State Board of Education) –(SB 2836 (1999)) - Died in committee
- Increase salary of nationally certified teachers (1998 State of the State) – “As we secure a safer state for our young Mississippians, let us seek genuine education reform to promote our children's success in school and to ensure that a better life is within their grasp. Join with me to reward our excellent teachers by increasing the salaries of nationally certified teachers (or as we referred to them in our 1994 legislative agenda -- "master teachers") to the national average or by \$6,000 – whichever is higher.” MISS. CODE ANN. Section 37-19-7 (2)(a)(i) (1972) provides for any licensed teacher who has met the requirements and acquired a Master Teacher Certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to receive an annual salary supplement in the amount of \$6,000. (NOTE: CODE sources reflect general law changes in 1998 and 1999, but I'm unable to determine when the \$6,000 supplement was enacted.)
- Mississippi Excellent Reading Grant Program (1998 State of the State) – “Let us build on the work of Representatives Charlie Smith and Rita Martinson and implement the Mississippi Excellent Reading Grant Program, a program to teach students to read, successfully, through proven phonics techniques.” - (HB 1113 (1998)) – Died in committee

NOTE: Fordice signed HB 751 (1999) on March 15, 1999, which established the Beginning Principal Support Pilot Program (one school in each of 5 Congressional districts). This program assigned new principals a mentor principal (served 3 or more years as a principal) to provide beginning principals with continued and sustaining support from a formally assigned mentor principal during the first full year of principal service. SDE's School Executive Management Institute is responsible for evaluating the pilot program