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

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**TO:** BOYD  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** STATS FOR NGA SUMMER 2000  
**DATE** 6/30/00  
**CC:** FILE

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Per your request, I have collected the following information for the Governor's reference at the National Governor's Association Summer Conference.

**1. How many Head Start sites are there in Mississippi? How many children are served annually in Mississippi by Head Start?**

198 licensed Head Start centers served 25,176 children during the 1999/2000 school year.

**2. Do we have any data regarding the performance of children from Head Start and those without in academic terms?**

According to a report entitled "Head Start Program Performance Measures: Second Progress Report" published in June 1998, comparisons suggest that the cognitive assessment score attained by a typical 4-year-old completing Head Start was 4 to 8 points higher than the score that a 4-year-old from a low-income family would be expected to achieve, if the latter child had no center-based preschool experience. While this difference is relatively modest (one-quarter to one-half a standard deviation), it does fall within the range that has been deemed "educationally meaningful."

The typical child completing Head Start knows things and possesses skills that attest to a grasp of the rudiments of early literacy and numeracy and signify a readiness to learn more in kindergarten. Head Start children can listen and comprehend what they have heard, have at least a basic knowledge of word meanings, know shapes, know colors, show familiarity with books and story reading, can count several objects, can perform simple arithmetic, can use a pencil to draw or write letter-like shapes, and can demonstrate much of what they have learned in a structured assessment situation. Most children completing Head Start have also learned many of the social skills they will need in the kindergarten classroom.

**3. How many agencies and groups does Head Start collaborate with in Mississippi?**

The Head Start-State Collaboration Office has been housed in the Department of Education since August 1, 1999. *Mississippi's Head Start Profile 2000* reported that 23 agencies received grants to operate the state's 198 licensed Head Start centers: 12 community action agencies, 9 non-profits (private and public) and 2 government agencies.

#### **4. What are the effects of the 2000 Educational Accountability bill?**

Schools will be evaluated based on students achieving a grade-level proficiency or students exceeding an annual growth expectation in the number of students not testing at grade-level proficiency, but showing improvement. Schools not meeting established growth expectations or grade-level proficiency standards will be designated Priority Schools. 7-member evaluation teams (appointed by State Superintendent and approved by State Board of Education) will be sent to Priority Schools to identify personnel in need of professional development and to assist in the development and evaluation of improvement plans for the school. Identified personnel will be given two years to improve and may be dismissed after two years if improvement is not made. If a central office deficiency contributes to a Priority School, the superintendents will be required to undergo professional development. MDE may ask the Governor to subject the Superintendent to recall if improvement is not made in three years. Local board members are subject to recall or reappointment if the district has a Priority School for three years. School board members selected after July 1, 2002, must have a high school diploma or its equivalent and must spend a full day in the schools each year. (A summary of SB 2488 is attached.)

#### **5. What accountability measures do we have in place that other states do not have?**

We do not have any unique accountability measures. The measures utilize a proficiency and growth model. Steve Hebler of MDE reported that these are very common accountability measures. He stated that our “consequences” are very common among states as well. North Carolina also utilizes evaluation teams to improve priority schools.

#### **6. How much federal support does/should Mississippi receive under the Welfare to Work?**

Congress authorized \$3 billion for the Welfare-to-Work grants: \$1.5 billion for FY 1998 and \$1.5 billion for FY 1999. There were two types of Welfare-to-Work grants: formula grants to states and competitive grants to local applicants. The Labor Department's welfare to work website ([wtw.doleta.gov](http://wtw.doleta.gov)) indicates that Mississippi did not receive any formula grant funds for FY 1998 or FY 1999 due to the state's failure to submit a state plan. (NOTE: In a conversation with Neal Ridley of NGA today, he confirmed that Mississippi did not receive funds due to the state failing to submit a state plan.) The planning estimates for the formula grants indicate Mississippi would have received \$12,990,778 in 1998 and \$12,116,981 in 1999, for a total of \$25,107,759. No new funds have been allocated since that time.

Although there were no formula grants, two competitive grants were awarded to local applicants in Mississippi:

1. Hinds County received \$3,294,191 its Remedial Employment Opportunity Program (REOP) which seeks to minimize barriers to employment through community partnerships in order to match workers to employers.
2. The Mississippi Action for Community Education in Greenville received \$1,565,330 for its Support, Training and Responsibility (STAR) program. STAR creates employment and on-the-job training opportunity for TANF recipients through the establishment of a facility in Metcalfe to manufacture the components for the construction of pre-engineered homes.

#### **7. What programs are designated for this funding?**

Welfare-to-Work funds under both the formula and competitive grants can be used for a range of activities intended to move individuals into jobs, including wage subsidies in the public or private sector; on-the-job training; contracts with public or private providers of job readiness, placement or post-employment services; vouchers for similar services; community service or work experience; job retention services; and supportive services (if not otherwise available). The 1999 Amendments affecting the Welfare-to-Work program added vocational education and job training (for up to 6 months) as additional allowable activities.