
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOYD
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR STATE OF THE STATE
DATE 12/15/00
CC: FILE

National Board Certified Teachers: 389 Mississippi teachers earned the highest professional credential in the field of teaching – National Board Certification – for the 1999-2000 school year. Mississippi ranked fourth in the number of new teachers earning this certification – only North Carolina, Florida and California had more teachers become certified.

Reading Excellence Grant: Mississippi received approximately \$31 million in federal funds. 46 schools will spend approximately \$27 million of these funds for teacher training and materials to implement the “Every Child A Reader” program. 7 schools will spend approximately \$3 million in tutorial assistance grants to implement after school and summer programs for students.

Charlotte Early Childhood Initiative: Mississippi sent a multi-disciplinary team comprised of agency representatives, childcare providers, university personnel and Head Start officials to Charlotte, NC, in October to a conference sponsored by the National Committee on Partnerships for Children’s Health. The goal of this conference was for states’ teams to identify means of improving the health of our youngest children by coordinating child health strategies in early childhood education. Mississippi’s team has just submitted its report to the Governor. The team set as an overall vision that every child in Mississippi will be healthy and develop the skills and concepts that ensure learning is ongoing prior to their entry into school. The goal set is to build a strong infrastructure for early childhood services in Mississippi including: quality child care, quality health care, quality resources for parents and a data system that serves to support and guide the decisions made relative to comprehensive services specific to the areas listed above.

Right From Birth: December marked the premier of Mississippi Educational Television’s groundbreaking series on parenting and early literacy. *Right from Birth: A Parenting Series* features nationally recognized child development experts Drs. Craig and Sharon Ramey and Dr. Kyle Pruett. The twelve half-hour episodes lead parents and caregivers through the stages of early childhood from birth to 18 months and give practical advice on how adults can prepare children for a lifetime of learning from the

day they are born. The Mississippi Department of Human Services Office for Children and Youth provided funding for outreach of this series.

CHIPS: We continue to identify means of enrolling uninsured children for health care benefits. 21,472 children have been enrolled under Mississippi Health Benefits. Our public school initiative has resulted in approximately 1,500 children being enrolled. The Mississippi Employment Security Commission is providing Mississippi Health Benefits applications in its local offices and is printing text messages on unemployment checks to remind recipients of their children's potential eligibility for the program.

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates: The Governor is now serving on the Board of Directors. JMG's mission is to assist at-risk and disadvantaged youth in graduating from high school and in finding and keeping quality jobs through a state supported school-to-work transition system. JMG operated in 15 local sites during the 1999-2000 school year. 454 seniors and 89 non-seniors participated in the program, for a total of 543 students. 425 of the 454 seniors (or 94%) graduated.