

Leakesville Elementary School – Mississippi Day 2001
Friday, April 6, 2001
8:00 a.m.
Leakesville Elementary School

(Message: 10 minutes, educational advancements and opportunities in Mississippi)

Opening

- Good Morning
- (First Grade Story)

Main Points

1. Education
 - a. Is our #1 priority
 - i. And needs to be every political leader's #1 priority in our state.
 - b. Every success story in MS hinges on a quality education and education system
 - c. We must continue to support education.
 - d. Even with a slowing economy, we must continue to have strong schools and good jobs for our people.
 - e. There is no excuse for failing to make education our top priority.
 - i. Change in our state will happen because of public education.
 - f. I will be relentless in the fight for education.

- g. We have worked hard this past year to make improvements in education.
 - i. Teacher Pay Raise to Southeastern average
 - 1. From 49th to 19th in the nation.
 - ii. Teacher accountability plan
 - iii. Computers in the Classroom
 - 1. More than half way to our goal of placing an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom.
 - iv. www.FastForwardMS.com
- h. Our teachers are committing to our students
 - i. We must stop making excuses and commit to our teachers.
 - ii. National Board Certified Teachers
 - 1. Consistently ranking in Top 5%

2. Opportunities

- a. Mississippians now, more than ever, have many opportunities from which to choose.
- b. Better opportunities in:
 - i. Education
 - ii. For jobs
- c. Education and economic development go hand in hand.
- d. A state must have trained employees for potential new businesses.

- i. High-tech companies must have high-tech employees.
- ii. Mississippi has these people, and we are continuing that training.
- iii. We are investing in good jobs for our people
 - 1. Nissan
 - a. Is only the beginning.
 - b. The AMI gave Mississippi the competitive advantage.
 - 2. Supplier opportunities
 - a. Creating thousands of spin-off jobs for Mississippians
 - b. Potential for 26,000 for all of Mississippi.
- e. Give our people the opportunity for an even **better** Quality of Life
- f. Mississippi must invest.
 - i. The key is prioritizing and investing our money in the right places.
 - 1. Economic development
 - 2. Education

Closing

- Mississippi's Image: Important how our neighbors, our nation and the world view us.

- How Mississippi is perceived affects us in all aspects: economic development, education, tourism, etc.
- We have the opportunity to promote a positive image.
- Remove obstacle that hinder our success.
- The world is taking notice, and we must continue to spread the word about Mississippi.
- A place where our children can live, work and raise their families.
- Everyone plays a role in our state's success.
- We all have to work together to succeed, make changes and create progress.
- America's State of Promise