

STATE OF THE STATE
Ronnie Musgrove, Governor
February 9, 2000
POLICY & PLANNING COPY

EDUCATION

Computer in every classroom, "... in the year 2002, we will have Internet-accessible computers in every classroom in every school in every district in every county in the State of Mississippi."

Teacher pay, "... We must take teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average. We can reach that goal in four years by investing \$22 million dollars the first year and staggering increases over the next three years."

Appointed Superintendents, "What would happen if we were to take partisan politics out of running our schools, and finish the work of making all Mississippi school superintendents appointed? Can we elect Mississippi's school boards and appoint Mississippi's superintendents?"

Reading Incentive Program, "Within the next few weeks we'll be starting a Reading Incentive program through the Governor's office. ... This is just one way the Governor's office is going to work hand in hand with the First Lady's efforts to promote reading across our state."

Respect Legislation, "Let's re-enforce what many parents across this state are teaching their children at home by requiring students to address their teachers, principals, coaches and other school officials with the respectful phrases we used growing up. What's wrong with saying 'yes'sir' and no'sir?' I urge you to pass a law requiring Mississippi students to show respect to every educator while at school."

HEALTH

Prescription Medications, “Getting a handle on the escalating costs of prescription medications is the beginning. With your help we will find a way, and we will be back asking you to enact the remedy.”

Primary Care Provider Shortage Act, “There’s another health care crisis plaguing our state. County by county, community by community, primary care providers are becoming more and more scarce. ... If we can identify and enact solutions to teacher shortages, surely we can find a way to craft a solution to this shortage as well.”

Rural Hospital Funding, “As an aside, let me just simply say that Washington may be pulling up stakes and heading for the big cities when it comes to funding for hospitals, but we’re sticking by our small towns, our rural communities, and our hospitals. And we won’t let Washington forget we’re here. We won’t let Washington forget about Mississippi’s hospitals and the people they serve.”

CHIP, “You did your job, and now it’s time for the executive branch of government to do its job.”

Enhance the Patient Protections Act, “We should also act to protect the rights of patients and doctors by strengthening the law already on the books. “

Enhance State Employees and Teachers Health Insurance, “I urge the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to work together and with the Governor’s staff to find a way to make health insurance work for Mississippi’s state employees.”

PUBLIC SAFETY

Criminal Justice Task Force, “This task is much bigger than the Governor’s Office or the Legislature, and I will be calling for the assembly of a Criminal Justice Task Force to examine the many issues facing our state.”

Crime Laboratory, increase appropriations, “I ask you to commit to fully funding Mississippi’s crime lab.”

Stiffer penalties for drug trafficking, “...I know that together through legislation and enforcement, we can curb this rising tide threatening to take our children and the life of so many communities across Mississippi.”

Expand After-School Programs, “After-school tutoring and mentoring programs are no longer a luxury for Mississippi children. Today, they have become a necessity, and we need to take programs like Support Our Students statewide.”

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Home Corporation, restructure, “...I am calling for restoring credibility to the Mississippi Home Corporation by reconstituting its board of directors and starting over.”

Workforce training, additional funding, “Put a bill on my desk that fully funds workforce training through our community colleges and I will sign it into law.”

Economic development initiatives, update, “We are going to write the plan for economic growth that will take us to new levels of prosperity and create for our families an improved quality of life. (Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development).”