
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: EXPLORNET'S ESTABLISHING CENTERS FOR QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING
DATE 9/15/03
CC: FILE

Dave Boliek of ExplorNet has spoken to Boyd and me about ExplorNet's establishing Centers for Quality Teaching and Learning (QTL) throughout Mississippi to support efforts to provide a highly qualified teacher to students. Boliek has submitted a proposal that calls for the centers to enable teachers to implement effective teaching strategies proven to impact student achievement in a technology-enriched environment. Boliek sees this extending the impact of your Computers in the Classroom by building teacher capacity for utilizing best instructional practices in a technology rich environment.

ExplorNet's proposal calls for them to partner with the state to establish and sustain up to 10 new Centers during the first year and an additional 10 centers the second year. ExplorNet proposes that Mississippi provide \$300,000 (i.e., \$30,000/center) in Year 1 and \$600,000 each subsequent year. This would make available 25% tuition scholarships for participating schools to use to leverage their federal dollars for tuition; provide professional development for approximately 2,700 educators during the first 2 years; and, impact the learning of as many as 48,500 students.

The professional development would be a 7-day, 50-hour intensive program that models research-based instructional practices in a technology-enriched environment. The first 5 days reproduce a classroom with teachers participating in instructional practices, academic content and technical skills activities. Participants work in teams on Day 6 to design a collaborative project that is tied to their school improvement plan. QTL instructors work with teachers in the school on the 7th day to assess the student learning that has occurred and identify additional needs.

ExplorNet has spoken to Dr. Johnson about the proposal and he supports it, but wants to make sure this is something you support before his staff moves forward on it. Of course, the initiative will be stronger with support and participation from both of our offices. MDE has identified some space and funding that MDE has available for the first Center. Boyd and I think this would be a quality extension of the Computers in the Classroom initiative, however we would have to identify funding for it. With an approximate cost of \$30,000/center, we could choose the level of our participation. Please indicate the course of action you want me to take on this:

Identify funding for 4 centers (1 in each CD) for \$120,000 _____

Identify funding for 5 centers (1/2 of proposal) for \$150,000 _____

Regret our participation at this time _____