
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT JULY 2003 EDUCATION BREAKFAST – MONDAY 7/28
DATE 7/25/03
CC: FILE

Recent positive events for education

- Houston's *Sundancer* solar car team won U.S. race for third year in row
- K-12 test scores:
 1. MS Curriculum Test: 2003 MCT scale scores for Mississippi students were higher than the scores in 2002 in all content areas at all grade levels except for grade 6 reading where the mean scale score was 1.6 points lower.
 2. Writing assessment: The average grade 4 writing score on the Spring 2000 Writing Assessment was 2.0. The average increased to 2.1 in Spring 2001 and to 2.5 in Spring 2002. In Spring 2003, the average score was 2.2. At grade 7, the average writing score for 2000 was 2.0. Average score increased to 2.3 in 2001 and remained the same in 2002 and 2003.
 3. Subject Area Testing Program: The average scale score for students taking each of the tests during the 2002-2003 school year was higher than it was for students taking the tests during 2001-2002. Algebra I scores increased from 335.9 to 339.5, Biology I scores from 347.4 to 350.8, U.S. History scores from 359.7 to 363.0 and scores on the English II reading/language test increased from 321.4 to 328.9.
 4. Terra Nova: Results for Spring 2003 indicated that Mississippi sixth graders are performing at or above the national average in all three content areas (reading, language, and math) based on the 1996 norm group. In comparing the same students across two years (grade 5 in 2002 and grade 6 in 2003) results were slightly higher in reading and mathematics, and about the same in language
- You had good lunch with IHL presidents 7/16. Lunch with CC presidents on 8/26.

Upcoming events/issues

- Budgets – I have MDE's FY 05 numbers and IHL's. (I'm working on a memo to you, Renick and Felicia on these.) SBCJC is forwarding us final numbers after August 1st. Discuss how important it is the next few years to lock in education first. Remind them of where education would be if we hadn't been successful in having it funded first this year.
- Neshoba is Thursday at 10:40.