
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: EDUCATION WEEK'S *TECHNOLOGY COUNTS 2003*
DATE 5/7/03
CC: MAYO, SEWELL

Education Week is releasing its *Technology Counts 2003* report tomorrow. A large portion of the report focuses on the growing number of states and schools offering computer-based testing, reportedly because it is cheaper to administer than paper-and-pencil tests, allows for adaptive features and produces almost immediate results. 12 states (Arkansas is the only contiguous state; NC, KY, MD and VA are other SREB states) and DC are administering computerized tests this year. The report also continues to track developments in online education. Regarding the impact of technology on student achievement, the report concludes that, while a number of studies show that technology can have a positive influence on achievement, the link remains tenuous.

The report is based on 2002 data that was submitted prior to the completion of the Computers in the Classroom Initiative, thus it does not reflect all classrooms as having an Internet-accessible computer. I've attached Mississippi's state summary that was written by Alan Richard, whom you met with earlier in an interview regarding the Computers in the Classroom Initiative. As in the past, he has once again failed to report the significance of what a computer in every classroom means in Mississippi.

Cathy Hayden is doing an article for tomorrow's paper on the report. She has spoken to Lee Ann and she may try to catch you this afternoon or if Lee Ann may just give her a statement. Lee Ann said that Cathy seems to be of the disposition that the report is very favorable of Mississippi.

A few other highlights:

- MS is one of 33 states that does not require teachers to either have coursework in the use of technology or take a technology skills test to receive an initial teacher license.
- MS is cited on page 43 of the report as one of two states – Hawaii being the other – that improved their ratios of students to instructional computers by more than one student per computer. Statewide, MS has 4.9 students per instructional computer. The national average is 3.8 students.
- MS is one of 9 states that has established a virtual school for students to take online courses. (The Mississippi Online Learning Institute, aka MOLLI)
- MS exceeded the national average in the following data indicators:

Access to technology

- 15% of MS's instructional computers are Windows 2000 or NT. The national average is 13%. (i.e, faster, more advanced computers)

- In high minority schools, MS averaged 6.4 students per instructional multimedia computers, while the national average was 6.6. (i.e, fewer students per multimedia computer)
- MS averaged 10.3 students per instructional multimedia computers located in classrooms, while the national average was 10.8 (i.e., fewer students per multimedia computer)
- Statewide, 94% of MS schools had Internet access, which equaled the national average. However, 95% of MS's high-minority schools had access, while the national average was only 92%.
- Statewide, 92% of MS schools had Internet access from 1 or more classrooms, while the national average was 90%.
- Statewide, of MS schools with Internet access, 79% connect through a T1, T3, digital satellite, or cable modem. The national average was 76%.
- Of MS's high-poverty schools with Internet access, 80% connect through a T1, T3, digital satellite, or cable modem. The national average was 73%.
- Likewise, of MS's high-minority schools with Internet access, 83% connect through a T1, T3, digital satellite, or cable modem. The national average was 75%.

Capacity to Use Technology

- 50% of MS's schools had a full-time district or school-level technology coordinator. The national average was 33%.
- 64% of MS's schools had a full-time district or school-level computer maintenance/technical support person. The national average was 49%.
- 74% of teachers in MS's high-poverty schools had participated in professional development on the use of computers for instruction in the last 12 months. The national average was 66%.

Use of Technology

- 78% of MS's schools had at least half of their teachers using the Internet for instruction. The national average was 73%.
- 76% of MS's high-poverty schools had at least half of their teachers using the Internet for instruction. The national average was 68%.
- 75% of MS's high-minority schools had at least half of their teachers using the Internet for instruction. The national average was 65%.

MESSAGE: Mississippi's investment in education is paying off. You have fought to provide adequate resources to all students in all classrooms. Next year's report, which will be based on 2003 data with all classrooms having an Internet accessible classroom, should be even more favorable. Technology will continue to play an increasing role in the education of our children and we are taking steps, such as Computers in the Classroom and [AOL@School](#), to ensure that our students are on a competitive learning field with students in other states so that receive a quality education that will prepare them for higher education or the workforce.