

Letter from Governor Musgrove to Chief State School Officers and
State Higher Education Executive Agency Heads

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Dear -----

"First in the nation." "In the top ten in the United States." "One of the top rated in America." These are the kinds of terms we all want to see used more and more to describe educational achievement in our states. This is also the bold future called for in the Southern Regional Education Board's *Goals for Education* that claims that our states "can lead the nation in educational progress."

SREB states are leaders in several education areas. We were proud to have Mississippi cited recently as the first state in the nation to have an Internet-linked computer in every classroom. I was also proud last month to sign our education budget--the first budget bill passed by the legislature and the first education budget bill passed in America in 2003. Our "Education First" budget increases investment in education for 2003-2004.

We are not ignoring the many difficult problems we face, both short-term and long-term, but it helps sustain our progress when we can point out to the public and opinion-makers the specific progress that we have made.

Last year the Southern Regional Education Board pointed out several of the areas where our states are national leaders. As SREB Chairman, my request of you is to help us do this in 2003 in a much larger and even more impressive way. We will share this information with SREB states. We can "lead the nation in educational progress." Being first in the South in education now means being a national leader. Please send to me at the SREB headquarters information about areas where your state is in a national leadership position or ranked among the top states in the nation. Headquarters for the Southern Regional Education Board is located at 592 Tenth Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

We will put the information to good use and work to build support so that in more and more states and in more and more areas of education we will be national leaders.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

Enclosure