

October 17, 2000

Honorable Richard Riley  
U. S. Department of Education  
Federal Building #6  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Riley:

I am writing to make you aware of Birth-to-Kindergarten, a new endeavor of the Delta Education Initiative.

Birth-to-Kindergarten is based upon the fact that many children in the Mississippi Delta enter kindergarten more than a year behind their peers developmentally. This initiative, to be piloted in the Indianola School District, will provide a concentrated community support system to address this problem and will address the parenting needs of mothers and fathers regarding child rearing, nutrition, healthcare and child development.

Dr. Cass Pennington, Superintendent of the Indianola School District (662-887-2654), and Dr. David Potter, President of Delta State University (662-846-4000), are seeking direction as to how they might secure the support of your department for this program. I would greatly appreciate any assistance or direction that your office can provide them regarding this matter.

As always, thank you for your service and your assistance.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr

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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** LETTER TO SECRETARY RILEY ON BEHALF OF DR. DAVID POTTER AND CASS  
PENNINGTON  
**DATE** 10/17/00  
**CC:** FILE

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Dr. David Potter and Cass Pennington wrote asking for your assistance in making U.S. Secretary of Education Riley aware of Birth-to-Kindergarten, a new program of the Delta Education Initiative. I have prepared the **attached letter to Secretary Riley for your signature**.