

# BACKGROUND MEMO FOR TUESDAY MORNING'S SPEECH TO SUPERINTENDENTS

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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** MS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS' WINTER MEETING  
**DATE:** 10/22/01  
**CC:** FILE

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You are speaking to the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents tomorrow morning at 8:30 at their winter meeting in Vicksburg. You are giving the Medicaid briefing.

I went over to Vicksburg this morning to listen to a panel discussion between Dr. Richard Thompson, Dr. Olon Ray, Dr. Clyde Muse, Dr. Bill McHenry (IHL), and Blake Wilson on "2001 Partnerships for Success in Education." A few highlights for your reference:

- Dr. Ray said that there needs to be a process to bind the 3 educational sectors together and there needs to be an urgency to this process due to the current financial crisis and because the educational system is not meeting the needs of the people. He said that local schools should be allowed to govern and that accountability is a "quick fix" from the Legislature.
- Dr. Thompson said that MDE is going to be calling for the restoration of the \$43 million in one-time funds used in FY 02 and will push for full implementation of MAEP, although there is talk of maintaining the Minimum Program for one more year.
- Blake Wilson said that the MEC will continue to let legislators and the leadership know that education is the MEC top priority. He said that he knows there is a lot of talk going on concerning accountability and that MEC is going to work to open communications on both sides of the issue. He also said that MEC supports a new funding formula for the community colleges to encourage life long learning.
- Dr. Thompson got a lot of questions and comments regarding MDE's legislatively mandated study of administrative costs of districts and the department. Superintendents want it made clear that litigation and workers' comp are "killing" the schools.

I'll meet you at the Convention Center in the morning. I'll be there at 7:45 to make sure the PowerPoint is working (they had technical difficulties this morning). I'm taking our laptop and projector as backup.

This event is on your public appearance calendar. The conference agenda is attached for your reference.