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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** NAACP'S CALL FOR ACTION IN EDUCATION & REQUEST FOR MISSISSIPPI'S  
NOTIFICATION OF INTENT  
**DATE** 4/25/02  
**CC:** RENICK  
KINNEY  
PROSPERE  
TELL

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On Tuesday, April 23, I received a letter and materials dated April 8 and addressed to you from John Jackson, National Director of Education for the NAACP. The NAACP has issued its *Call for Action in Education* and is calling upon federal, state and local educational agencies to use the document as a blueprint for designing and implementing a *Five-Year Educational Equity Partnership Plan* to address the pervasive racial disparities in education which indicate that America's educational system has yet to meet the mandate of Brown v. Board of Education. Jackson's letter stated that the Mississippi NAACP had issued its Call for Action in November 2001 and requested that Mississippi submit its *Five-Year Educational Equity Partnership Plan* by May 10, 2002. This is the first information I have seen regarding this matter. As the NAACP had not received such a plan as of April 8, Jackson's letter requested that we submit a *Notification of Intent* form by April 19, 2002 so that the NAACP would have the opportunity to add Mississippi as a Partner in Education and highlight our state's commitment as the NAACP intensifies its advocacy efforts on this issue.

The *Call for Action* identifies many of the critical areas where racial disparities are hindering the future prospects of students of color. These areas include:

**Elementary and Secondary Education**

- Increasing Resource Equity
- Improving Teacher Quality
- Increasing Access to Early Childhood Programs
- Increasing Access to a College-Bound Curriculum
- Creating Smaller Class Sizes
- Closing the Digital Divide
- Addressing Disparities in High Stakes Test
- Reducing the Dropout Rate
- Increasing Parental Involvement

- Addressing Special Education and the Overrepresentation and Under-servicing of Minority Children
- Eliminating Racial Disparities in the Suspension and Expulsion of Students
- Addressing Resegregation Trends
- Providing Language Assistance and Bilingual Education

### **Higher Education**

- College Preparation
- College Recruitment
- College Admissions
- College Affordability and Financial Aid
- Faculty Diversification in Higher Education
- Retention and Graduation

The NAACP is requesting that each state's *Five-Year Educational Equity Partnership Plan* outline the steps that the state will take to close racial disparities in each of the identified areas above and establish indicators and milestones designed to cut the racial achievement gap by at least 50% over the next five years.

It is the opinion of the NAACP that "Leave No Child Behind" will provide greater spending flexibility for states and school districts and that these resources will provide an opportunity to close the achievement gap by reducing the pervasive racial disparities that augment the learning gap.

Mr. Jackson copied Dr. Richard Thompson, State Superintendent, and Mr. Eugene Bryant, State NAACP Conference President, on his letter. According to Joy Milam in Dr. Thompson's office, they have yet to receive the information.

I've attached a copy of the *Notification of Intent* form that the NAACP is requesting that we sign. Please advise as to if you wish for us to sign this form, which would obligate us to submitting a *Five-Year Educational Equity Partnership Plan*, or if you would rather I work with Peyton and Phillip in drafting a letter explaining Mississippi's Adequate Education Program and other state initiatives to ensure a quality education for every student.

Thank you.