
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: INVITATION FROM MDE TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO LOBBY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROPOSAL
DATE: 6/30/2003
CC: RENICK

Dr. Johnson sent the attached invitation for either you or me to travel to Washington, along with him and the chief state school officers and governors' and/or their reps from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama on either July 21 or 22. The purpose of this trip is to meet with congressional delegations to seek funding for the attached early childhood proposal.

If successful, the proposal would obtain \$40 million/year for five years to establish early childhood education pilot programs for 4-years olds in identified areas of need in each state. The curriculum for each program would align to NCLB. Each state would receive \$10 million/year that would allow them to serve 2,000 children/year (\$5,000/child). Funding could allow services to be delivered via the local school district or in coordination with a local entity that meets criteria for a quality program. The proposal also provides that the selected school systems will serve as pilot sites to coordinate all federal preschool funds (Title I, Early Start, Head Start, etc) into a single approach where funds and one preschool administrative effort are used. Data would be collected that would compare participating 4-year olds to non-participating children. This pilot 5-year longitudinal study would be complete after the first pilot class of 4-year olds have taken their third-grade national accountability exams (usually IOWA Tests).

The proposal recognizes that state funding for new early childhood programs is going to be difficult to obtain. The ultimate goal of this proposal is to provide access to quality early education programs for all young children and to provide for the coordination of health, parent education, and student readiness for all pre-K children and their families.

Dr. Johnson will be on the trip, so Mississippi will be represented regardless. I do think this would be a nice fit with our early childhood assessment that we are doing via the Barksdale Reading Institute and would look favorably upon you within the MS Early Childhood Association.

I assume that you will be unable to participate in this, due to the campaign. Please indicate below if you want me to participate. Our office would have to pay for my travel. (I'm copying Bill on this memo for his approval of such travel if you indicate you want me to participate.)

Yes - participate _____ No – give regrets _____

Thank you.