

MEMO

TO: School Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Governor Ronnie Musgrove
DATE: July 6, 2001
SUBJECT: Appropriation Bill Veto Messages

I have enclosed for your reference copies of my veto messages for the FY 01 Mississippi Department of Education deficit appropriation, FY 02 Mississippi Department of Education appropriations, and the FY 02 Department of Corrections appropriation. My veto messages demonstrate my commitment to making education the priority for our state and to securing full and adequate funding for education.

The first year of the teacher pay raise plan was funded by diverting \$14 million in classroom supply funds. In addition, approximately 50% of the FY 2002 MAEP budget is to be funded with Public School Building Fund one-time money.

Rather than adequately funding education, private prisons were promoted. The directive was for me to utilize \$16.4 million out of the state's "Rainy Day Fund" to fund such private prisons. Rather than adhering to the Legislature's intentions for these funds to be utilized on unnecessary prison beds, I authorized the unreserving of \$10 million of these funds for the Minimum Program, to go back to the school districts.

I look forward to working with each of you to ensure a quality education for Mississippi's children, our state's greatest resource.