
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GAVIN
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: EDUCATION BUDGET LANGUAGE FOR LETTER
DATE: 2/6/02
CC: FILE

The Governor's FY 03 Executive Budget recommends a total of \$2,363,420,312 for K-12 education. This is \$56,901,696 more than the Legislative Budget Recommendation of \$2,306,518,616. The Governor recommends \$1,583,127,037 in General Funds for K-12, a 12.3% increase in General Funds over the FY 02 estimate. This is \$55,647,086 more in General Funds than the FY 03 Legislative Budget Recommendation.

The Governor's FY 03 Executive Budget maintains the FY 02 funding level of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, includes \$70 million for the teacher pay raise, and restores the \$30.5 million in textbook and classroom supply funds diverted by the Legislature during the 2002 Regular Session for the support of FY 02 educational programs.

According to State Department of Education officials, K-12 needs \$56.4 million in FY 03 funds over the FY 02 appropriation just to hold the districts harmless at their current level of operation. If the districts are forced to fund this \$56.4 million and choose to do so via fewer teacher positions, approximately 1,000-1,400 teaching positions could be impacted. In addition, 15-17 districts could be forced to operate at a deficit.

(Background Language on 2001 Legislation If You Need It: House Bill No. 1611 (2001 Regular Session) funded the Minimum Program by utilizing approximately \$30.5 million in Education Enhancement textbook and classroom supply funds as authorized by House Bill No. 776. House Bill No. 776 (2001 Regular Session) compromised education funding by diverting \$16.4 million in Education Enhancement Funds designated for textbooks and \$14.1 million in Education Enhancement funds allocated for classroom supplies to the support of educational programs through July 1, 2002.)