
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN FOR EDUCATION BUDGET
DATE: 2/13/02
CC: RENICK, KINNEY, MAYO, TELL

Per our discussion this morning, I've drafted the following plan of action for addressing the education budget:

K-12 Education

1. Draft language for Dr. Thompson to issue in Monday memo and request superintendents to share with faculty and staff
2. Hold meeting with MDE, Superintendents' Association (David Sheppard), MS School Board Association (Mike Waldrup), MS Association of School Administrators (Mike Vinson), AFT, MAE, MPE to discuss strategy (what full funding will mean, not only impact of what cuts will mean)
3. Letter from Governor to:

Teachers
PTA Presidents
Parents for Public School Chapters
School Board Members

Letter should inform and encourage parents and officials to write/call legislators and write letters to the editors

4. Letter to MEC membership: impact of education on Mississippi workforce and impact on future workforce that full education funding will have
5. Governor visit local schools (possibly Biloxi, Natchez, Hattiesburg, Meridian, Vicksburg, Bolivar County, Panola County, New Albany, Columbus – We don't want to visit the same old schools, but we want to be in key media markets and counties). Invite press, parents, business leaders and community leaders to "Put a Face on It":
 - a. demonstrate the number of teachers that will not be there next year

- b. demonstrate increased class size with students when teacher contracts aren't renewed and classes have to be combined
 - c. demonstrate reduction in classroom supplies (with pencils, play money, etc.)
6. Governor write Sunday article on necessity of funding education
 7. Organize march on capitol during Spring Break by "Mississippians for Full Education Funding" - teachers, parents and business community
 8. Governor to appear on Gallo and conduct conference call with Editorial Boards.

Higher Education

1. Hold meeting with IHL and SBCJC staff
2. Meet with IHL Board
3. Meet with SBCJC
4. Hold meeting with student body association residents of universities
5. Governor write Sunday article on necessity of funding education
6. Governor to appear on Gallo and conduct conference call with Editorial Boards.
7. Organize march on capitol during Spring Break by "Mississippians for Full Education Funding" – students, faculty, parents and business community.

I've shared this with Phillip and he says it looks good. We need to get together and discuss the timing and sequence of all of this, but we wanted to get you this first draft.