

January 28, 2003

The Honorable Mike Foster
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

Dear Mike:

I am in receipt of your January 13, 2003, letter in which you express concern that I inaccurately stated in my State of the State address that Louisiana schools are cutting back to a four-day week in light of budget problems and the national recession. As a supporter and advocate of public education, I certainly commend you and your state's investment in education.

Enclosed is a copy of the document from which my staff gathered its information. As you can see, the article entitled "Small schools save money by switching to a four-day week," which ran in *School Board News* on October 22, 2002, begins with a description of Merryville High School in Louisiana. The article states that the school hoped to stretch its budget by switching to a four-day week. The article continues to discuss the cost savings, as well as academic improvements, experienced by the school pursuant to its four-day week. I referred to schools in eight states switching to a four-day week in light of budget problems so as to emphasize the importance and necessity of fully funding education and funding it first.

Again, I commend your administration's investment in education and wish you well in your endeavors.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:klr
Enclosure