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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** NISSAN IMPACT ON SMYRNA SCHOOLS  
**DATE** 2/12/01  
**CC:** MADER

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Rutherford County Public Schools is a K-12 school system serving 25,400 students in 29 schools – 20 elementaries, 2 middle schools and 7 high schools. The district includes the cities of Murfreesboro, Smyrna, La Vergne and Eagleville, although Murfreesboro has a separate K-6 public school system. The district's 1999-2000 budget totaled \$120,474,312 with per pupil expenditures estimated at \$4,770.

The district employed 2,550 personnel during the 1999-2000 school year, with approximately 1,500 of these being teachers. More than 50% of the district's teachers have a master's degree or above. The district's pupil-teacher ratio were as follows: 20:1 (K-3), 25-1 (4-6) and 30:1 (7-12). Schools in the system have been recognized on the state and national level for their accomplishments.

Rutherford County's population experienced 41.4% growth from 1970 to 1980, 41.1% growth from 1980 to 1990, and 23.6% growth from 1990 to 1997. 108 portable classrooms were utilized in the 1999-2000 school year to accommodate growth. The Rutherford County Board of Education and the County Commission are working together on a 10-year plan to provide space for anticipated growth in enrollment and to eliminate portable classrooms. Twelve new county schools, including three high schools, are part of the school board's aggressive 10-year plan.

In 1977, the total assessed value of all property in Smyrna was \$13,475,749. By 1980, the total assessed value had risen to \$19,138,353 – a 42% increase. By 1983, the total assessed value of all city properties had increased to \$30,587,983 – showing a 59.8% growth from 1981 figures. In 1984, Smyrna's tax rate had remained unchanged since 1948 at 75 cents per \$100 evaluation. Smyrna's current tax structure is 72 cents per \$100 assessment.

Madison County school officials have met with legislators and have traveled to Washington to discuss the fiscal impact of educating the additional students expected with the new Nissan plant. Madison County schools have 8,899 students. Before the Nissan announcement, school administrators expected the student population to jump to 11,211 by fall 2003. School leaders now say they could see more than 3,000 new students if half of Nissan's employees live in Madison County.