

August 14, 2003

Mr. Drew Scheberle
Interim Project Director
Center for State Scholars
400 W. 15th Street, Suite 408
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Scheberle:

As Chairman of Mississippi's State Board of Education, I am pleased to offer my support to our state's application to the Center for State Scholars for funding and technical assistance to implement the Scholars Initiative in Mississippi.

During my tenure on the Board since 1995, the Board has increased and enhanced our state accountability system, made school improvement a top priority and increased the rigor of course completion for students. We are committed to ensuring that students are prepared to compete in today's economy or to further their education when they graduate. The Scholars Initiative would encourage our students to complete an even more rigorous curriculum, thereby enhancing their skills and knowledge.

I am pleased to offer support for this project. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

Charles Deaton, Chair
Mississippi Board of Education

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