
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: I CAN LEARN: LETTER FROM DR. THOMPSON AND LETTER OF INTENT
DATE: 9/19/01
CC: FILE

Per your instructions, I obtained the attached letter from Dr. Richard Thompson regarding the I Can Learn software. MDE reports that it cannot endorse any software due to ongoing litigation for an employee doing such. MDE's attorney has advised that any endorsements could endanger MDE's appeal.

I have also attached another letter of support for your signature. As I have conveyed earlier, Robin Williams and I Can Learn representatives have requested this letter in order for I Can Learn to draw down the \$1.2 million in federal funds before the end of this fiscal year on September 30. Robin Williams asked me to tell you that the letter is non-binding and will simply allow for the securing of the federal dollars intended for this project.

We need to finalize arrangements for the purchase of the software. According to Ed Ranck, you have the authority to declare the software sole source. You'll remember that there has also been some discussion as to DFA purchasing the software or of the Superintendents' Association establishing a non-profit organization to purchase it. I think DFA purchasing it would raise questions as to why MDE did not purchase it, to which we can explain that they were given the option and did not wish to do so. I am still concerned as to appropriation of state funds in 2004 for the lease purchase payments if the Superintendents' Association purchases it. Of course, Robin and Danny Cooper feel as if districts' support of and results with the software will result in the appropriations.

Please sign the attached letter of intent and/or advise as to further action you would like me to take on this matter.