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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** I CAN LEARN'S OFFER TO PUT 2 COMPUTER PRE-ALGEBRA CLASSROOMS IN STATE  
**DATE:** 5/23/01  
**CC:** BOYD  
PROSPERE  
TELL

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Peyton asked that I meet yesterday with Danny Cooper of the Capitol Group, John Alvendia of I Can Learn Education Systems out of New Orleans, and Robin Williams, former Georgia legislator, to review information regarding the I Can Learn curriculum.

I Can Learn is a computer-based pre-Algebra curriculum for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The curriculum consists of approximately 130 lessons presented by master teachers (National Board certified and recognized Algebra experts) via multi-media modules. The curriculum is designed for individual and self-paced learning of each student. I Can Learn provides every student with a nightly homework assignment. Teachers, administrators and monitors can log on and assess a student's grades, progress and weaknesses on a daily basis. I Can Learn is designed for mathematically challenged and at-risk students.

The AFT and the Congressional Black Caucus have endorsed the program. According to the group, I Can Learn is in approximately 150 classrooms in 25 districts in 9 states. According to Mr. Alvendia and Mr. Williams, the program has proven highly successful in Georgia, with Governor Barnes initially providing, via lottery revenue, \$2.4 million in pilot funds for the program and putting \$3 million into the program this year. Schools in Orleans Parrish (New Orleans), Fort Worth, New Jersey, and California also utilize the curriculum. Students in Orleans Parrish scored approximately 50 points higher in both the standard and national percentile scores on the math portion of the ITBS after using I Can Learn. Mr. Alvendia stated that schools on the Mississippi Gulf Coast familiar with the program in New Orleans are very interested in having it implemented on the Gulf Coast. He has demonstrated the program several times for Dewey Herring and the Gulf Coast Education Initiative Consortium.

**I Can Learn wants to donate two classrooms to Mississippi – one in Pascagoula and one in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District at a site to be determined by you. I Can Learn wants the Governor's Office to take the lead on this \$600,000 investment and to get the credit associated with it.** Congress has appropriated federal funds for I Can Learn to expand and I Can Learn is seeking additional federal funds. The average cost of a three-

year agreement with I Can Learn is \$300,000, which includes 30 workstations, the software, a server, and teacher training/professional development. I inquired as to any monetary match that the state would be obligated for with these two classrooms and all three gentlemen said none. I inquired as to future fiscal obligations, explaining that revenue projections are down, and they again said none. I Can Learn anticipates that the success of the two donated classrooms will result in other districts pushing for the Legislature to appropriate funds to other districts to implement the program, but the state would incur no costs for these program. I again explained that the likelihood of any new funding during the next several years is slim. I Can Learn is ready to donate the two classrooms at your direction and with your leadership. I Can Learn wants to donate the 2 classrooms to earn favor with our Congressional delegation and to hopefully solicit additional business in the state

Since the curriculum is designed for students to work at their own pace, I inquired as to what happens to students who finish the curriculum early. Stanford University automatically enrolls any I Can Learn graduate into its EPGY distance learning program (textbook and CD provided), with I Can Learn picking up the cost.

I have not contacted any of the school districts mentioned regarding their opinion of the program. I Can Learn reportedly has not discussed this offer with anyone else in the state. Mr. Alvendia offered to come back to Jackson to demonstrate the program for you and/or the First Lady. We should contact Danny Cooper (969-6970) if we are interested in pursuing this offer.