
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: I CAN LEARN
DATE: 9/25/01
CC: RENICK

As we briefly discussed last Thursday afternoon, it is likely that you are going to take hits on the I Can Learn software no matter what you do. I do not think we need to go any further on this. I am suggesting that you contact Robin Williams (706-650-0668 office; 706-294-2963 cell) and tell him that the political environment right now is not conducive to your taking hits on this. You will also need to consider if you will take any hits from anyone who might say you let \$1.2 million in federal funding get away from us.

You'll remember that I Can Learn's initial offer to us was for the company to donate two classrooms to Mississippi – one in Pascagoula and one in the 2nd Congressional District at a site to be determined by you. They wanted you to take the lead on this initiative and to get the credit associated with it. Throughout the course of discussions, they have said that this initial offer was still on the table. They could utilize the \$1.2 million in federal funds to place these 2 classrooms (\$600,000) or to place a total of 4 (\$1.2 million), with the same hopes that the results in these sites would spur other districts to demand funding for the software.

During the course of our discussions and work with I Can Learn and the Department of Education, I Can Learn completed the paperwork to be listed on the Express Products List (EPL) which means that school districts may purchase from them. So, I Can Learn has an entry into Mississippi.

Although Ed Ranck says you have the authority to declare the software sole source, you'd definitely take major hits if you did that. I think DFA purchasing it would raise questions as to why MDE did not purchase it. 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 advise as to what action you want to take on this matter.