
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: 9:00 I CAN LEARN DEMONSTRATION
DATE: 7/19/01
CC: FILE

You have a 9:00 this morning with representatives (John Alvendia, Thomas Hohan, Danny Cooper and Robin Williams) of I Can Learn. I Can Learn wants to donate two classrooms to Mississippi – one in Pascagoula and one in the 2nd 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.

I Can Learn was founded in 1990 and is based out of New Orleans. I Can Learn will provide a full-time interactive classroom, individually paced to the students. The curriculum will be aligned to that of Mississippi. (NOTE: MDE is not aware of the project at this time.) I Can Learn has been designated a *Promising Mathematics Program* by the USDE. I Can Learn's instructional approach consists of a pretest, review, presentation, guided practice and a quiz for the student. I Can Learn will demonstrate the instruction at our 9:00 meeting.

I Can Learn has approached us with the option of utilizing \$1.2 million in USDE Technology Innovation Challenge Grant funds via a lease purchase agreement to install 10 or 20 classrooms in the state, rather than the donated 2. Danny Cooper has spoken to Ed Ranck of Friedman Lazzatto and Ranck said that I Can Learn meets the criteria for the state's master lease purchase program under a sole source arrangement. I Can Learn briefed Felicia Gavin and me last week to on this matter and Gina Davis of DFA attended the meeting. Davis and Don Buffman will attend today's meeting. Davis and Cooper said that the lease purchase agreement can be set up for the first payment to be due during or after the 2004 session.

Decisions to be made:

1. Accept the \$600,000 donation for 2 classrooms or consider a lease purchase agreement that could provide 10-20 classrooms.
2. Timing: I have requested a list of the 15 lowest performing high schools in Algebra from MDE and we are to have them this week. Once the number of classrooms is agreed upon, we will need to finalize the list of selected schools, present this to MDE

and then brief the schools. I Can Learn says that the classrooms can be installed over a weekend and it is common for the curriculum to be initiated mid-semester.