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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** I CAN LEARN: MDE CONCERNS  
**DATE:** 8/20/01  
**CC:** RENICK

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This memo is provided as background for your dinner meeting with Robin Williams tomorrow night. Robin and I spoke Friday afternoon regarding the following and we both think that MDE is trying to jerk us around. He will explain in more detail tomorrow night, but he said that the Speaker and Lt. Governor have a plan to change the Master Lease Purchase Program during the session. I spoke to Judy Rhodes on Friday and she expressed the following concerns regarding I Can Learn (ICL):

- She and Dr. Thompson have spoken to several board members (she spoke to Charlie Deaton, she didn't know who Thompson had talked to) and they don't like the lease purchase option (obligating MDE without having appropriations).
- MDE is in the midst of litigation for an employee endorsing software and their attorney has advised that ICL could endanger MDE's appeal.
- In checking ICL's references, MDE has gotten more favorable comments on behalf of another software that USDE ranked as "exemplary," as compared to ICL's "promising" ranking.
- ICL is missing some MDE curriculum components, but ICL has expressed willingness to make adjustments. Other states have complimented ICL on its customer service and technical assistance.

Rhodes offered the following alternatives:

- Get ICL on the Express Products List (EPL), which opens up this week. Districts can then purchase off the EPL in October. Robin is passing this information on to ICL and Helen Soule is to assist them. (NOTE: I inquired as to the utilization of the \$1.2 million in this scenario and Rhodes suggested that these funds could be split between the districts that purchased ICL. This would not be efficient.)

- Put together a bid package that ICL can bid on. Rhodes said that she talked to Don Buffum and he indicated that the \$1.2 million in federal funds would almost guarantee them the bid.

We could also consider putting together a consortium of schools via an inter-local agreement and the consortium could enter into a lease purchase agreement for the program. However, I am not confident as to future state appropriations to such a consortium. We could also consider running a lease purchase through another agency.