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OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** UPDATE ON I CAN LEARN  
**DATE:** 8/13/01  
**CC:** RENICK

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John Alvendia of I Can Learn has requested your signature on the attached letter of intent in order for them to start moving forward on drawing down the federal funds. Please either sign the attached or mark any changes that you would like made.

According to Robin Williams, the Speaker mentioned during Robin and Danny's visit with him after the meeting here on the 1<sup>st</sup>, that he had already gotten a heads up from MDE about the project. Robin said that the Speaker did not throw up any flags to them that there would be a problem.

Danny Cooper and Robin spoke to David Watkins after leaving our offices on the 1<sup>st</sup>. They are now suggesting that if MDE drags its feet on this, that you designate DHS to receive the federal funds and that the programs then go directly to the 25 districts. Watkins said that the superintendents will hold press conferences in every district that receives I Can Learn. I've got a call in to Watkins to discuss this further with him.

Your running the federal funds through DHS rather than MDE might raise a few questions, but it would save having to go through the State Board of Education and mean that we'd only have to run this through ITS for approval. Do you want to consider running the program through DHS rather than MDE?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

I have another call into Judy Couey at MDE as to the status of our request for the 25 schools that have scored the lowest in Algebra. I also have another call into Helen Soule to inquire as to the status of MDE justifying I Can Learn as a sole source purchase.