
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SEWELL
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: TEACHER PAY WORDING
DATE 6/20/01
CC: FILE

I've pasted in below some of the teacher pay language that we have used in the past. The first is from a narrative that we did for the U.S. Department of Education in August 2000 as background for Secretary Riley's visit to Mississippi. The second is from an overview of gubernatorial educational achievements that we sent to NGA last week.

Teacher Pay

Mississippi cannot be expected to attract and retain qualified teachers to educate our children if we are not willing to pay a competitive salary for such qualified teachers. Mississippi's 1998-1999 classroom teachers' average salary was \$29,500, while the southeastern average was \$35,817.

Governor Musgrove signed HB 1134 into law on May 1, 2000. This legislation provides for a \$337.9 million plan to raise Mississippi teacher pay to the Southeastern average by the 2005-2006 school year. Mississippi's teachers will start seeing larger paychecks during the 2001-2002 school year. Mississippi's teacher pay average will go from the present \$31,900 to the predicted Southeastern average of approximately \$41,000 by the 2005-2006 school year. This is an approximate 30% raise.

HB 1134 provides that teachers only receive these raises each year if the state economy grows by at least five percent a year. Governor Musgrove is opposed to the 5% growth provision and will work with the legislature next year to remove this growth provision to ensure that we provide this raise regardless of the growth of Mississippi's economy. Governor Musgrove is committed to pay raises for our teachers and that, as a state, we are committed to putting education first in Mississippi.

Governor Musgrove believes we must pay our teachers competitive salaries so that we don't lose experienced educators to neighboring states and so that top students are encouraged to go into teaching. We must make the commitment to improving and building upon Mississippi's public education system so that we may develop the workforce that will attract new business and economic growth to our state.

Teacher Pay

Governor Musgrove worked during the 2001 Legislative Session to secure funding for the first-year of a five-year \$337.9 million plan to raise Mississippi teacher pay to the Southeastern average by the 2005-2006 school year. Mississippi's teacher pay average will go from \$31,900 to the predicted Southeastern average of approximately \$41,000 by the 2005-2006 school year. This is an approximate 30% raise. Governor Musgrove is committed to pay raises for our teachers and to Mississippi putting education first.