

The National Governors Association has confirmed that Mississippi is the first state in the nation to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in the state. According to the NGA, Mississippi is “at the head of the wave of technological innovations.”

When fully implemented, the teacher pay raise plan will raise the average teacher salary for Mississippi from 49th to 19th in the nation. The day after Governor Musgrove signed the legislation, the *New York Times* commented in an editorial that Mississippi had put together the kind of package that continued to elude New York.

Mississippi was the first state selected by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges to host a Leadership Summit on Higher Education.

Mississippi is also one of six states to participate in Following the Leaders, in a pilot program on the implementation of the mandates of No Child Left Behind. In selecting Mississippi for this program, it was said that Mississippi had “an infectious enthusiasm and commitment to students.”

Mississippi was the sixth state in the nation to receive approval of its accountability plan, in compliance with the federal, *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. Mississippi was the first state in the Southeast to receive approval.

Mississippi’s accountability program is ranked twelfth in the nation, according the *Princeton Review*. The state received the maximum possible score in 16 of 22 categories.

A January 29, 2003, *USA Today* article stated “of the 40 federal requirements examined by ECS (Education Commission of the States), 12 states are close to fulfilling half or more. Among the furthest along: Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas...”

Mississippi ranks sixth in the nation in the number of total National Board Certified Teachers. Mississippi has 1,459 NBCTs.

Mississippi schools are classified as Level 1 through Level 5 in accordance with our state accountability system. 680 or 82% of our 822 schools are performing at Level 3 (“Successful”) or higher.

86% of Mississippi’s schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in reading/language arts. 84% our schools met Adequate Yearly Progress in math. 50% of our schools met all Adequate Yearly Progress requirements (i.e., reading, math and other indicators).