



**An A+ Education for All Mississippians**  
*Governor Musgrove -- Putting Mississippi's Schools First*

Governor Musgrove Is...

### **Connecting Our Students**

- ✓ Governor Musgrove made Mississippi the first state in the nation to have an Internet accessible computer in every classroom.

### **Holding Our Schools Accountable**

- ✓ In 2000, Governor Musgrove signed groundbreaking legislation establishing a statewide, school accountability program that is considered one of the most comprehensive in the nation.
- ✓ In March 2003, Governor Musgrove led Mississippi to become 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.
- ✓ In November 2002, Governor Musgrove led Mississippi to become one of the first states approved to receive a federal Reading First grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The state's application passed a rigorous review panel that judged the plan against 25 main criteria.
- ✓ Under Governor Musgrove's leadership, the number of schools identified at the end of 2002 by the federal government as "needing improvement" in Mississippi declined by more than 90% - from 122 to only 11.

- ✓ Mississippi's accountability program is ranked twelfth in the nation, according to the Princeton Review. The state received the maximum possible score in 16 of 22 categories.
- ✓ The number of Master Teachers in Mississippi increased by 416% under Governor Musgrove's leadership, from 354 to 1,474. Teachers earn the title of "master teacher" by completing a one-year certification program from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Mississippi ranks fifth in the nation for the number of "master teachers" and was the first state to offer additional compensation to teachers who complete the rigorous program.

## **Improving Test Scores**

- ✓ Due to Governor Musgrove's efforts to improve education standards, Mississippi students scored nearly 100 points above the national average on the SAT during the 2001-2002 school year.
- ✓ The 2002 MCT (Mississippi Curriculum Test) scale scores increased in every subject and at every grade level from 2001, the first year it was administered. The percentage of students scoring at the "basic" level or higher increased in nearly every area.
- ✓ Scores for the Mississippi Writing Assessment Test, increased by 20% for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and 13% for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students under Governor Musgrove's leadership.
- ✓ Mississippi has the second largest increase for fourth graders in reading as measured by the National Assessment of Education Progress (The Nation's Report Card). The report to be released next week by the Southern Regional Education Board is expected to show that these previous gains made during Governor Musgrove's first term were maintained by the new class of fourth graders.
- ✓ Mississippi's 5<sup>th</sup> graders performed at or above the national average in all areas -- reading, language, and math -- of the Terra Nova, a national achievement test. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders performed at or above the national average in almost every area.