
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOYD
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: NGA: "STATE STRATEGIES FOR TURNING AROUND LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS"
DATE: 2/19/2001
CC: SIMMONS

The following information regarding Mississippi's new accountability system could be applicable to the identified areas of the NGA position paper.

Measuring School Success and Failure

- The State Board of Education shall identify and reward Superior-Performing or Exemplary Schools based on students (1) exceeding an annual growth expectation, or (2) achieving a percentage of grade-level proficiency. School incentives may be provided for Superior-Performing and Exemplary Schools and the State Board of Education shall provide special recognition for schools so designated.

Providing State Assistance

- Schools not meeting established growth expectations and grade-level proficiency standards will be labeled Priority Schools.
- Priority Schools will be assigned a seven (7) member trained evaluation team appointed by the State Superintendent and approved by the State Board of Education. The evaluation team shall conduct an on-site audit, prepare a report, and submit the report to the State Superintendent within forty-five (45) days for approval.
- The evaluation report shall identify personnel in need of professional development and the evaluation instruments shall be validated for such purposes. The evaluation report shall be submitted to the school officials and shall also be submitted to the community at a publicized meeting.
- The Priority School shall prepare and approve an improvement plan in conjunction with the State Department of Education, school officials, the evaluation team and parents. If the plan is not approved, the State Board of Education may approve and implement the plan.
- The evaluation team, with input from parents and the community, shall establish a local parents/citizens advisory council to assist in the development and evaluation of the improvement plan.
- The State Department of Education shall provide technical assistance and ensure that a monthly report is issued to the local board and local parents/citizens advisory council.