

**For Immediate Release**  
July 2, 2001

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### **Governor Ronnie Musgrove Announces \$10 Million in Assistance with School District Shortfalls**

Jackson, MS -- Governor Ronnie Musgrove has announced that he has directed \$10 million to be used in lowering the fiscal year 2001 shortfall faced by school districts. The shortfall, which stood at more than \$14 million on April 1, 2001, will now decrease to \$3.3 million.

Governor Musgrove took this action on Friday, June 29, 2001, in a directive to the Department of Finance and Administration. The funds, reserved in February 2001, were unreserved at Governor Musgrove's request following a review of revenue collections through June 27, 2001.

"I am pleased that we were able to provide some relief for these school districts," Musgrove said. "As I have said time and time again, education should be our first priority in our spending."

School districts were faced with increasing local millage for finding other means of increasing revenue to deal with the budget shortfall.

"Our students, our teachers, our administrators and our schools are the foundation for our success as a state," said Musgrove. "This assistance will have a strong impact on the work of the school districts as they prepare for the coming school year."