

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Governor Musgrove Announces Advancement in Education and Technology**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove this week announced the partnership of the Computers in the Classroom program and ExplorNet and the installation of [AOL@SCHOOL](#) initiative in our classrooms throughout Mississippi. “Through the Computers in the Classroom program, ExploreNet, and AOL@SCHOOL, we are going to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in the state by the end of this year,” said Musgrove.

Governor Musgrove made these two announcements on Wednesday, July 17, at the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents Convention. “It’s vital that our school children have access to the latest technology if we hope to close the digital divide,” says Governor Musgrove.

Students involved with ExplorNet are learning a technique called Computer Recycling Project (CPR). This project teaches high school students how to build computers from scratch or upgrade older ones. A grant worth \$4 million from the Mississippi Development Authority helped make the Mississippi Student Computer Training Project possible. Now, ExploreNet is donating 6,000 computers, built by our students, to the Computers in the Classroom program. The computers will be built by the end of the year. “This public-private partnership between ExplorNet, the governor’s office, and MDA will ensure students throughout our state have access to modern technology. Nothing should stand in the way of our students rising to their full potential,” said Bob Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of MDA.

In addition to Computers in the Classroom Program, Mississippi is partnering with America Online, Inc. to offer a free online service that harnesses the Internet’s power in the classroom by offering six age-appropriate learning portals featuring educational content communications features and special safety tools. This is available through [AOL@SCHOOL](#). Students will be able to enjoy the almost limitless resources of the Internet while remaining focused on the educational goals of their work. The [AOL@SCHOOL](#) software will be distributed to public schools statewide and provided free of charge. “We are thrilled that students across the state of Mississippi will have the opportunity to take advantage of the [AOL@SCHOOL](#) learning system to bolster their education with a world’s worth of learning resources,” said Musgrove.

By combining the Computers in the Classroom program, with the major assistance of ExplorNet, and the new [AOL@SCHOOL](#) initiative, Mississippi’s children will have the educational and technical skills demanded by the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

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