

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Announces Mississippi's Role In National Education Project

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today praised the selection of Mississippi as one of six states in the nation chosen to participate in the first phase of the “Following the Leaders” project, funded by the United States Department of Education. The project will provide the technology resources and guidance to help the state implement the mandates of the “No Child Left Behind” legislation recently enacted by Congress.

“This announcement is a major victory for our state, for our children, for our future,” said Musgrove. “We’re going to introduce new resources and new tools in our on-going work to improve education in Mississippi and serve as a leader for other states.”

The “Following the Leaders” project was developed through the cooperative efforts of the Education Leaders Council, Project Achieve, Accountability Works, the Milken Family Foundation and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. It focuses on the connection between parents, classrooms, school districts and state education departments and offers the tools to keep the connection strong.

“Mississippi’s selection to participate in this program is evidence of the progress we’ve made in recent years,” said Dr. Henry Johnson, Superintendent of the Mississippi Department of Education. “Test scores are up, teacher pay is up, and we are taking a leadership stance that is being recognized nationwide.”

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A total of 15 Mississippi schools will participate in the initial phase: Grenada Elementary, Grenada School District; Gentry High School, Indianola School District; Broad Street High School and Brooks Elementary, North Bolivar School District; Simmons High School and T. R. Sanders Elementary, Hollandale School District; John F. Kennedy High School and I. T. Montgomery Elementary School, Mound Bayou School District; Ray Brooks School, Benoit School District; R. H. Bearden Elementary, West Tallahatchie School District; Pope Elementary and Batesville Intermediate, South Panola School District; Water Valley High School, Water Valley School District; Duck Hill Elementary, Montgomery County School District; and Hayes Cooper Center, Cleveland School District.

“In choosing Mississippi, it was said that we had ‘an infectious enthusiasm and commitment to students,’ as well as the ‘immediate capacity to use Following the Leaders tools effectively,” Musgrove said. “Those are strong endorsements of the work we’ve been doing.”

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