

- Every state impacted by national recession
 - More than \$7 trillion lost in stock market
 - More than two million Americans out of work
 - States cutting school week / releasing prisoners / massive lay-offs
- Have to protect people in short term / prepare for long term
- Best way to do that is through investing in education and creating jobs
 - Everybody benefits from good schools
- Education must be first priority for MS
 - Making great progress
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Test scores up / accountability standards stronger than “No Child Left Behind”
 - Princeton Review: MS has 12th best testing system in nation
 - MS 6th in nation in National Board Certified Teachers
 - Computers in Classroom
- Keeping education a priority with a budget that puts Schools First / 62 percent
 - MS first state in nation to fully fund education and fund it first
 - Other states cutting to the bone
- We’re proving to the people of MS that we’re serious about education
 - Making the investment now for dividends tomorrow
- When it comes to education, we mean business
 - Business means jobs
- Job creation from January 2000 to August 2003 (source: MDA)
 - 2,103 new and expanded facilities
 - 54,000 new jobs
 - Total investment of \$15 billion
- MS Rural Economic Impact Authority
 - \$20M to help with economic development in rural areas
 - Funding to cover workforce training at community colleges
- MS’s potential not exclusive to metropolitan areas
 - Promise of our people is just as strong in rural areas
 - Fighting to bring quality jobs to every Mississippian
- We have to look to the future of MS / where do we want to go?
 - Good schools / good jobs / good communities