

Mississippi Association of School Superintendents  
Family Picnic  
Thursday, July 27, 2000  
6:00 p.m.

## **Opening**

- Good evening
- It has certainly been a full day (Neshoba)
- Story

## **Main Points**

1. Partnerships improving the quality of life for Mississippi's families.
  - a. Tuesday of this week announced new partnership
    - i. DHS
    - ii. Medicaid
    - iii. DFA
    - iv. Department of Education
  - b. Partnership developed as another outreach initiative to promote CHIP through Mississippi Health Benefits.
  - c. Goal is to increase the number of children of working families receiving health insurance.

- d.** This initiative will reward all public schools K through 12 for enrolling needy children of working families.
  - e.** The Division of Medicaid will pay each public school \$20.00 for every eligible child successfully enrolled in Mississippi Health Benefits.
  - f.** As a result of our efforts, and those of our advocates, more than 13,725 children have been enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program.
  - g.** That more than doubles our total since January 1, 2000.
  - h.** This is a partnership that gives the greatest benefit to Mississippi's children because not only will they have insurance coverage, but their schools will also benefit, thus benefiting their education.
2. Most critical issue facing the State of Mississippi – Raising Teacher Pay to the Southeastern Average
- a. Commitment to our teachers, students

- b. Commitment to our future
  - c. Business community realized that education plays a major role in economic development in our state.
3. Classroom Technology Task Force
- a. First installment of computers will be placed in Spring of 2001 (approx. 6000 computers)
  - b. Placing the world at the fingertips of our children
  - c. Giving them the tools they need to get good jobs and live, work and raise their families in Mississippi
  - d. Workforce of tomorrow
4. Workforce Training – major component to successful economic development in MS.
- a. Students need a strong educational background.
  - b. Ability to train and retrain our workforce

## **Closing**

1. Our people are our greatest asset
2. Important that we prepare our students for a bright future
3. Bringing better jobs to our state means better opportunities for our people.