

**MISSISSIPPI MINUTE**

**(GUY AUSTIN, 957-8877 5:30AM MONDAY)**

Just as we have to learn how to walk before we run, our children's success in school depends on how well we prepare them for that first step through the schoolhouse door.

There is, however, still no comprehensive plan for the funding and implementation of a universal early childhood education system. We're working to develop a system of early care and education to address the needs of our children and build a stronger Mississippi.

The plan will be developed through a partnership between the Barksdale Reading Institute and the Department of Human Services, and their joint funding of an 18-month study to evaluate the status of child care in Mississippi.

The study will assess what child care services currently exist in Mississippi; what funds, from both federal and state sources, could be available to support an enhanced child care system; and what the public is looking for in child care.

The hallmark of our vision is to give each and every one of our young people an opportunity – an opportunity to live up to their potential and promise.

I'm Ronnie Musgrove, and this has been the Mississippi Minute. Thanks for listening.