

## Opener

- Good schools = good jobs = good communities
- If you short change education, you short change our future
- The percentage of General Funds going to education has decreased since FY 92 (NOTE: Bill has handout.)
  - Total education: 62.72% of general funds in FY 92; 58.36% in FY 03
  - K-12: 46.53% of general funds in FY 92; 43.22% in FY 03
  - CC/JC: 3.43% in FY 92; 3.38% in FY 03
  - IHL: 12.76% in FY 92; 11.76% in FY 03
  - The Legislature has slashed classroom supply funds and diverted the Public School Building Funds in recent years to “fund” K-12 education
  - IHL has been cut \$98 million during the last 3 fiscal years and LBR recommends another \$48 million cut – We’re losing our faculty and staff
- We are requiring our schools to provide an education to our students, but we aren’t providing the schools with the resources necessary to provide an adequate education –
  - Local districts either have to cut services or increase taxes (i.e., unfunded mandate to our local communities)
  - Community colleges and universities either have to cut services or raise tuition (unfunded mandate that is being passed on to our parents - your constituents)
- We have the opportunity to work together to change this and to properly fund education and to make it Mississippi’s priority

## The Plan

- Appropriate pre-K through higher education in one comprehensive bill and at 62%. Pass it, put it on my desk and I’ll sign it. Pass it by the third week of January. (NOTE: Bill has handout.)
- Fund education first, give it the funding it deserves and it requires to advance and protect the future of our state – don’t wire bail it together at the end of the session
- Fund the Mississippi Brain Trust - \$200 million (\$20 million for 10 years) to recruit and retain the very best minds to teach and train in our community colleges and universities and to be involved in research and development

## The Message and Why This is Good for You

- This sends a strong, definitive message to your local constituents - and to the State as a whole - as to your commitment to education
- You can all use some favorable reviews following the negative publicity you got in the Special Session
- We are united and committed to protecting the future of our state – our students
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