

State Employee Leave
For Parent/Teacher Conferences
And 5% Provision Removal
Press Conference

10:30 a.m.
Rouse Elementary School

With Great Enthusiasm. Great photo opportunities. Teachers, students and parents (members of the PTO) will be in attendance. Stand up straight. Low tones.

Talking Points

- 1st grade teacher story.
- The extra time and effort Mrs. Catherine Nelson invested in me – in my education – made a great difference in my life, and in my future.
- I am the first person in my family to graduate from college.
- Mrs. Nelson's investment in me paid off.
- It is that kind of investment that teachers across the State of Mississippi are making in the lives of our children.
- Look at the faces of these students.
- Now tell me how education in Mississippi can be anything but our top priority.

- I am sure the teachers, parents and students here agree with me that education must be our top priority in Mississippi.
- We have taken one of the largest steps forward for our state, to make education a top priority, by passing legislation to raise teacher pay to the Southeastern average.
- A raise in teacher salaries is an investment in our teachers and our students.
- Our teachers are committed to teaching.
- They are committed to our students.
- Removing the five percent revenue growth condition on pay increases shows our commitment to Mississippi's teachers.
- The five percent condition on pay raises for teachers isn't a commitment; it's an excuse.
- I continue to urge legislators - remove the five percent condition.
- Educating our children must be our first priority.

- While our teachers play a critical role in our students' education, so do our parents.
- Mothers and fathers across Mississippi invest hours upon hours of time with their kids on homework and school projects.
- A parent's involvement in their child's education is vitaly important.
- That is why I am also urging members of the House and Senate to pass legislation, which will authorize state agencies to allow administrative leave for employees to attend parent-teacher conferences.
- This legislation would allow parents the opportunity to attend meetings with their child's teacher without having to take personal leave time.
- I believe teachers will tell you how important it is to have parents who are informed and involved in their child's education.

- A parents' involvement in their child's education has a direct effect on their advancement, behavior and grades in school.
- This legislation would give parents the opportunity to be more involved with their child's education.
- Our children are a priority.
- Education is a priority.
- It takes all of us – teachers and parents – working together - doing everything we can to ensure that our children receive an exceptional education.
- We are making education our top priority in Mississippi.