

Governor Musgrove's comprehensive plan for education had four objectives when he took office in January 2000:

- 1.Accountability**
- 2.Teacher pay**
- 3.Technology resources**
- 4.Full funding**

These 4 objectives have been met.

Accountability:

- An August 2002 report of the *Princeton Review* ranked states based on testing programs for the schools, and Mississippi was ranked sixth in the nation.**
- Mississippi is also one of six states to participate in Following the Leaders, in a pilot program on the implementation of the mandates of No Child Left Behind. In selecting Mississippi for this program, it was**

said that Mississippi had “an infectious enthusiasm and commitment to students.”

- **A January 29, 2003, *USA Today* article stated “of the 40 federal requirements examined by ECS (Education Commission of the States), 12 states are close to fulfilling half or more. Among the furthest along: Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas...”**

Teacher Pay:

- **When fully implemented, the teacher pay raise plan will raise the average teacher salary for Mississippi from 49th to 19th in the nation.**
- **The day after Governor Musgrove signed the legislation, the *New York Times* commented in an editorial that Mississippi had put together the kind**

of package that continued to elude New York.

Technology:

- **The National Governors Association has confirmed that Mississippi is the first state in the nation to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in the state.**
- **According to the NGA, Mississippi is “at the head of the wave of technological innovations.”**

Full funding:

- **In preparing his FY 04 budget recommendations, the Governor funded education first and then funded other agencies.**
- **The Governor’s recommendations funded education at a level of \$2.4 billion, or 62% of the budget.**

- **Governor Musgrove called on the Legislature during this State of the State address on January 9th to appropriate pre-kindergarten through higher education in one comprehensive bill at 62% of the general fund and to send the appropriation bill to his desk for his signature during the first month of the legislative session, rather than during the last two weeks as has been tradition.**
- **Following his State of the State address, the Governor visited schools, community colleges and universities through out Mississippi for two weeks.**
- **The Governor also held town hall meetings with both educators and the public to discuss the importance of funding education first.**

- **The Legislature passed the education appropriation bills on January 31, 2003, and Governor Musgrove signed the bills on February 5, 2003.**
- **I want to thank those legislators here today for their support.**
- **For the first time ever lawmakers funded education before other state needs.**
- **The \$2.7 billion appropriation bills provide \$236 million above the legislative budget recommendation.**
- **HB 1033 funds K-12 with \$142.5 million more for a total of \$1.95 billion. This level fully funds the Mississippi Adequate Education Program for the first time and funds the teacher pay raise.**

- **SB 2678 funds our community colleges at \$172 million, which is \$23.5 million more than the legislative budget recommendation.**
- **Public universities are funded at \$585 million, \$70 million more than the legislative budget recommendation.**
- **In signing the bills, Governor Musgrove stated “Today, we have changed the way we fund education forever.”**
- **Funding education first sends a strong message not only to our students, our teachers and the citizens of Mississippi, but it sends a message to the entire nation that Mississippi is investing in our future and that we are serious about education.**

- **To our knowledge, Mississippi is the only state in the country that has funded education for next year at this time.**
- **In correspondence to other southeastern region governors and educational leaders, Mark Musick, President of the Southern Regional Education Board, stated “Mississippi has accomplished something in education that many states have talked about, but few, if any, have done.**

National Board Certified Teachers

- **Mississippi had 321 new National Board Certified Teachers in 2002 (ranked 7th in 50 states).**
- **Mississippi has 1,459 total NBCTs, ranking 6th in the nation.**
- **We believe that our continued investment in NBCTs is critical to ensuring that our children have a qualified teacher leading their classroom.**
- **Mississippi has gone the extra mile in supporting our National Board Certified Teachers by creating the World Class Teaching Program, which Peggy just discussed.**
- **The State Department of Education's FY 04 appropriation for National**

Board Certification is \$17,398,995. This will fund all teachers currently in the program, as well as projected new ones (FY 03's appropriation of \$14,339,236).

- **The World Class Teaching Program is appropriated at \$566,000 (\$441,000 in general funds and \$125,000 in EEF)**
- **We are proud of our teachers that undergo rigorous National Board certification and we want them to know that we are proud of them.**
- **The Governor personally hosts a reception for our new NBCTs each year. He hosted this year's reception on February 5, the same day he signed the Education First appropriation bills.**
- **I can sum it up in one simple statement:**

- **Investing in education, including our teachers, is an investment in our future and we don't want to short change our future.**
- **Thank you.**