

Talking Points for Teacher Pay Raise Plan
March 15, 2000

1. The Legislative Budget Committee has projected a sufficient growth in revenues to fund teacher pay to the Southeastern Average. (Out-Year Budget Plan)
 - a. \$24 Million Projected Discretionary Funds in 2002
 - b. \$104 Million Projected Discretionary Funds in 2003
 - c. \$207 Million Projected Discretionary Funds in 2004
 - d. Using the same conservative estimate as 2004, \$321 Million should be available in 2005
2. My plan will require approximately \$22 million in 2002 and \$88 million for three more years. (Musgrove Teacher Pay Raise Priority Plan)
3. If the Legislature does not commit to funding teacher pay, we will see the gap between the Mississippi and the contiguous and Southeastern states widen. (Mississippi and Contiguous States; Mississippi and Southeastern States)
4. If you look at the top ranked states in education, you find they make traditional investments in education. They pay their teachers competitive salaries so that top students are encouraged to go into teaching and they don't lose experienced educators to neighboring states.

Questions and Answers

What are the growth rates used for the revenues?

The Legislative Budget Committee predicts growth of 5.2% in 2002, 5.9% in 2003, and 5.1% in 2004. Using the same conservative estimate as 2004, \$321 Million should be available in 2005

What are the growth assumptions for contiguous and southeastern average salaries?

For the contiguous states, the growth rate is approximately 4%. For the southeastern states, the growth rate is approximately 3%. These figures are based on historical data.

What does this mean? It means that our surrounding states are paying teachers more money at a faster pace than the region as a whole.

What are the growth assumption for Mississippi average salaries?

For Mississippi, the growth rate is approximately 2% (after 2001). This is based on historical data from the last five years.

We heard \$68 million as the out-year cost not \$88 million, why the difference?

In my state of the state address, I said that it would take \$22 million for 2001. Following my address, I told a group of reporters that the legislature would have to come up with more than \$80 million in three subsequent years.

If the Legislature puts off raising teacher pay until 2002, teacher pay will lag that much further behind.

OTHER POINTS TO NOTE MENTALLY (NOT NECESSARILY TO SHARE)

Because these are estimates, things may change and you will work with the Legislature to reprioritize the budget for teacher salaries.

In the tables, the year is the school year ending (e.g., 1996 means the 1995-1996 school year.).

The Southern Regional Education Board includes 16 Southeastern States (AL, AR, DL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV).