



State of Mississippi
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
DELBERT HOSEMANN
Lieutenant Governor

May 30, 2024

Mississippi Association of Educators
Attn: Erica Jones, President
775 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202

Dear Educators:

It was a great Session for our K-12 schools and educators. I am writing to recap some of the highlights and also to thank you. We are experiencing unprecedented success in education.

Topping the list, we replaced the decades-old K-12 school funding formula. The new formula injects an additional \$217.4 million into public schools, plus funds to cover health insurance and retirement plan increases. This is on top of a \$100 million funding increase and \$300 million in teacher pay raises in the last term.

Additionally, we passed bills allowing retired teachers in areas facing a district-wide or subject area shortage to return to the classroom full time while drawing down their benefits. We also reauthorized and expanded the Winter-Reed Loan Repayment Program. With a current shortage of more than 5,000 teachers, we must continue to retain teachers new to the classroom and experienced teachers who can mentor our younger generations.

We set the stage to address a growing mental health crisis in our schools, community colleges, and universities. Following Texas's experience, we created a task force to assess current training and resources to address the challenges our students are facing, determine where gaps exist, and look at other states' successful models.

Finally, we provided an additional \$3 million toward career coaches for a total appropriation of \$15 million. This will result in 200 coaches in 195 schools. My understanding is every secondary school which has requested a career coach will have one next year.

A child's brain is the most important resource we have in Mississippi. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my staff at the Lieutenant Governor's Office if we can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delbert".

C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor
State of Mississippi