

### MISSISSIPPI TO GET \$19.2 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Mississippi will receive \$19.2 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Mississippi's largest school districts, that means:

#### MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DI	\$1,374,198
GREENVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL	458,438
HARRISON CO SCHOOL DIST	347,967
MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL D	330,799
VICKSBURG WARREN SCHOOL	326,924
DESOTO CO SCHOOL DIST	326,765
RANKIN CO SCHOOL DIST	306,204
HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOO	297,435
HOLMES CO SCHOOL DIST	288,287
NATCHEZ ADAMS SCHOOL DIS	286,091
BILOXI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIS	280,889
PASCAGOULA SEPARATE SCHO	277,328
JONES CO SCHOOL DIST	259,527
COLUMBUS MUNICIPAL SCHOO	254,184
CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIS	243,270
GULFPORT SCHOOL DIST	236,194
CLARKSDALE SEPARATE SCHO	233,954
GREENWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL	219,129
MADISON CO SCHOOL DIST	206,911
LEFLORE CO SCHOOL DIST	200,570

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.