

FOR RELEASE

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**RILEY TO ROLL ALONG RIVER;  
"SUCCESS EXPRESS" TRACKS MISSISSIPPI THROUGH 7 STATES AUG. 27-31**

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley will take a four-day back-to-school bus tour at the end of August, visiting mostly rural communities along the Mississippi River.

"Each region of the country has special needs and concerns," Riley said, "but everywhere, education is the express bus on the road to economic success."

Dubbed the "Success Express," Riley will begin the trip Aug. 27 in Louisiana and make stops in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois. He will be joined on the bus by educators and local officials.

Riley said that some of the more than 200 counties along the Mississippi are struggling, but there are encouraging signs of progress, as states in the region have launched some important school reform measures. "We'll visit some exciting places -- schools that are using new technologies, innovative reading programs, after-school programs, family resource centers, award-winning schools that serve primarily students from low-income families. We'll see examples of the kinds of partnerships that have proven so effective in bringing parents and teachers, business leaders and educators together to make schools better."

President Clinton, at a May 10 White House conference on the Mississippi Delta, noted that at least half of students attending 10 of the 20 highest performing grade schools in Kentucky qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, leading him to conclude: "Race, economics and location are not destiny if you've got a good education system and you give these kids a chance to learn."

The Success Express is currently scheduled to stop in Monroe, Rayville and Winnsboro, La.; Portland, Helena, Marianna and Blytheville, Ark.; Hollandale, Rosedale and Clarksdale, Miss.; Memphis and Union City, Tenn.; Hickman and Paducah, Ky.; Charleston, Mo.; and Ft. Defiance and Metropolis, Ill.

As the nation's longest serving secretary of education, Riley has visited more than 325 schools.

"Better education is everybody's business," Riley said, "and I hope everyone will go back to school this fall -- as a student or parent, mentor, volunteer or just concerned citizen." The bus tour is part of an annual nationwide effort, known as America Goes Back to School, to encourage greater parent and community involvement to improve education.

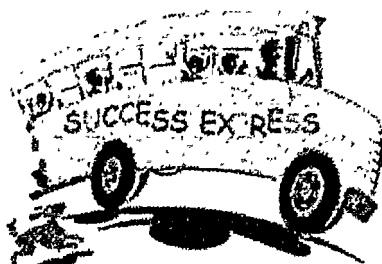
Last fall, Riley, a former governor of South Carolina, took a back-to-school bus tour along the South's I-85 corridor, visiting schools in five states.

For more information about America Goes Back to School, call 1-800-USA-LEARN or visit [www.ed.gov/Family/agbts/](http://www.ed.gov/Family/agbts/).

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Reporters wishing to accompany Riley on some or all of the tour should call or e-mail the contact listed above.

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**U.S. Secretary of Education  
Richard Riley's  
America Goes Back To School Bus Tour**



**THE SUCCESS EXPRESS  
Visits the Mississippi Delta  
August 27-31, 2000**

***Itinerary***

**Map**

• [Home Page](#)

• [Map](#)

• [Itinerary](#)

• [News & Speeches](#)

• [State Education Data](#)

• [Links to Other Websites](#)

**Date/States  
information**

**Events (Click on the links below for additional  
about the area.)**

**Sun. Aug. 27**  
Louisiana

- Afternoon kick-off press conference: **Monroe, Louisiana** airport
- Late afternoon visit with community leaders: **Rayville, Louisiana**

**Mon. Aug. 28**  
Louisiana  
Arkansas  
Mississippi

- Morning visit to Winnsboro High School: **Winnsboro, Louisiana**
- Noon state welcome ceremony: **Wilmot, Arkansas**
- Afternoon visit to Portland Elementary School: **Portland, Arkansas**
- Evening state welcome ceremony and visit with community leaders: **Greenville, Mississippi**

**Tues. Aug. 29**  
Mississippi  
Arkansas

- Morning visit to Simmons High School, **Hollandale, Mississippi**
- Afternoon visit to West Bolivar Elementary School: **Rosedale, Mississippi**
- Late afternoon visit to the Delta Blues Museum, **Clarksdale, Mississippi**
- Early evening visit to the Delta Cultural Center and visit with community leaders: **Helena, Arkansas**

**Wed. Aug. 30**  
Arkansas  
Tennessee

- Morning visit to Whitten Elementary School, **Marianna, Arkansas**
- Noon visit with community leaders: **Memphis, Tennessee**
- Afternoon visit to Middle College High School: at Southwest Tennessee Community College: **Memphis, Tennessee**
- Afternoon visit to That Bookstore in

DC 20000023 E3

Blytheville and visit with community  
leaders: **Blytheville, Arkansas**

**Thurs. Aug. 31**

Tennessee  
Kentucky  
Missouri  
Illinois

- Morning state farewell ceremony: **Union City, Tennessee**
- Morning visit to the Fulton County Family Ties Center at Fulton County High School: **Hickman, Kentucky**
- Late morning "Rolling on the River" event at the Hickman-Dorena Ferry: **Hickman, Kentucky**
- Noon meeting with community leaders and visit to Warren E. Hearn Elementary School: **Charleston, Missouri**
- Afternoon state welcome ceremony at Ft. Defiance State Park: **Cairo, Illinois**
- Afternoon visit to Clark Elementary School: **Metropolis, Illinois**
- Late afternoon end-of-trip press conference at the Museum of the American Quilter's Society: **Paducah, Kentucky**



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