

Why does Mississippi need so many universities?

People who publish on the USM sports blogs often raise interesting questions. Last week, this comment appeared on Eagle Post:

[Re: Last year doesn't look so bad anymore](#)

by [usmstang](#) » Fri Oct 18, 2013 8:13 pm

Other than tradition, why do we need so many public universities in MS? Why not merge those institutions with the Big 3 and save some money? Surely those campuses could be used as satellites and retain their names while offering specific curriculums. I just don't see budgets being the friend to any of the public schools, especially the smaller ones as we move forward. The money from our broke-assed Federal gov't will not last forever (at least while almost all of the Congressmen think we need to send \$billions and billions to countries I can't find on a globe instead).

Of course, we're not in as bad of shape as Louisiana since we are #1 in accepting Fed handouts to our state population but it can't last forever.

Still "sleepin" with a Dixie Darlin'

It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.

Thomas Jefferson

[usmstang](#)

Super Eagle



There's a kernel of an idea here, but it's nothing new. Former-Governor Haley Barbour, for example, suggested consolidating state universities. Although he may not have phrased it quite this bluntly, the import of his recommendation is Mississippi is a poor state. Keeping a multitude of state universities with redundant academics, administrations, faculty, and sports programs makes no sense – financial or otherwise. But will Mississippi taxpayers exercise good judgment to voluntarily make a decision that makes financial sense? Or will real financial exigencies, unlike past-President Saunders' phony financial exigency, make it for them?

My bet is Mississippi sports fans will insist on keeping their multitude of fourth rate sports programs while the resources wasted on them will drag down, or rather continue, to keep Mississippi schools at their forth tier academic level.

Real financial exigencies are coming (in fact they have already started for anyone paying attention) for higher education. Unless Mississippians demand a different road, Mississippi will continue to find itself as always at the bottom of all the important measures of success, including education.