

**Received(Date):** 21 MAY 2001 13:15:44

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**Subject:** : Education Update  
[F\\_YQI12004\\_NSC.TXT\\_1.doc](#)

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RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:James R. Wilkinson ( CN=James R. Wilkinson/OU=WHO/O=EOP [ WHO ] )  
CREATION DATE/TIME:21-MAY-2001 13:15:44.00  
SUBJECT:: Education Update

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Attached are talking points from Domestic Policy that discuss the

President's education reform agenda and House and Senate action on education reform.

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File attachment <F\_YQI12004\_NSC.TXT\_1>

# Congressional Action on the President's Education Reform Agenda

- The House and Senate are making historic progress toward a final education reform plan that closely tracks President Bush's education reform agenda to leave no child behind. These reforms would represent the most significant changes in federal education policy in more than 35 years. The President's education proposal rests on four principles.
  - **Accountability:** Requiring states to test students and measure progress in grades 3-8. Rewarding states and schools that improve children's education and taking corrective steps where needed.
  - **Flexibility and Local Control:** Reducing federal red tape and giving states and local schools unprecedented flexibility in using federal education funds to produce results.
  - **Funding What Works:** Tying federal funding to results. To qualify for federal funding, states should demonstrate performance in improving the education of all children to ensure that no child is left behind.
  - **Parental Empowerment:** Empowering parents to make more informed educational choices for their children by giving them more information about their schools and more choices when their kids are trapped in failing schools.
- **The House and Senate Bills Contain the Vast Majority of the President's Education Reforms**
  - **Accountability for results through high standards, assessments, and consequences for failure.** States will administer state tests in reading and math to every child in grades 3-8 annually. States will be held accountable to ensure that schools are making adequate academic progress for all students. And, while failing schools get help under the President's plan, they will face serious consequences for persistent failure.
  - **Maximum Local Control and Reduced Federal Red Tape and Bureaucracy:** To reduce duplicative education programs and focus federal efforts on critical education needs, most federal elementary and secondary programs will be consolidated into a few flexible performance-based grants focused on improving student academic achievement. States and local districts will be given unprecedented flexibility with federal education dollars.
  - **Funding Proven Education Approaches That Work:** To ensure progress, states and schools must demonstrate results with federal education funds. For the first time, historic increases in federal education funding will be directly tied to school performance. And, the federal government will help states to implement proven, scientifically-based approaches to provide kids with basic skills, including new initiatives such as Reading First and Early Childhood Reading Instruction.
  - **Empowering Parents to Make Informed Educational Choices:** For the first time, Republicans and Democrats have agreed that real reform requires that parents must have more options and more control over their children's education. Parents and the public will have access to detailed school-by-school "report cards" on the performance of their schools. Parents will be able to choose to transfer their child from a failing public school to an effective public school with transportation provided or to redirect their child's share of federal funds toward tutoring or after-school academic services. And, parents will be given the option to transfer their child out of a persistently unsafe public school to another public school of their choice.

**For more information, contact White House Domestic Policy Council at (202) 456-5594**