

THE BUSH EDUCATION PLAN

January 26, 2001

POLICY

Closing Achievement Gap:

- States/districts must ensure all students meet state standards; system of sanctions/rewards.
- Annual reading/math assessments publicized to parents. States can select and design assessments of their own choosing.
- Schools not meeting standards receive extra funds, but after three years of failure, students may “take” their Title I funds to high-performing public or private school/provider of their choice.

Improving Literacy:

- Focus on research-based reading programs in early grades and Head Start, grants to participating states for K-2 initiative.

Expanding Flexibility:

- Combine federal Title I schoolwide, state, local funds to improve quality of entire school.
- Consolidate current tech and e-rate funds to schools based on need.
- Charter option for states and districts providing five-year performance agreement to Ed. Secretary. Must meet “rigorous standards of accountability.”

Rewarding Success and Sanctioning Failure:

- State gets one-time bonus for narrowing achievement gap among all third to eighth grade students.
- “Successful” schools with “greatest progress” in disadvantaged achievement get “No Child Left Behind” bonus.
- State will lose fed. Funds, if fail to meet performance objectives.

Promoting Informed Parental Choice:

- School-by-school “report cards” to parents, so can make “informed choices about schools.”
- Assist charter schools with start-up funds.
- Sec. Of Education grants for “innovative efforts to expand parental choice, as well as to conduct research on effects of school choice.”

Improving Teacher Quality:

- States and districts given “flexibility” to use federal funds on “improving teacher quality.” State must ensure “that all children are taught by effective teachers.”
- High standards for professional development, and funds to “promote research-based, effective practice in classroom.”
- Strengthen math/science “through math and science partnerships for states” to work with colleges “to improve instruction and curriculum.”

Making Schools Safer for the 21st Century:

- Empower teachers to remove violent/disruptive students from classroom.
- Funds to schools to “promote safety and drug prevention during and after school.”
- Religious organizations eligible for after school programs.
- “Rescuing students from unsafe schools.” School-based crime victims “or students trapped in persistently dangerous schools will be provided a safe alternative.
- “States must report to parents and public” on safety of school.
- “Character Education” grants to states and districts “to train teachers in methods of incorporating character-building lessons and activities into the classroom.”