

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 020 - Folder 005

Education - K - 12 Generally

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 30, 1998

EDUCATION EVENT

DATE: October 1, 1998
LOCATION: The East Room
BRIEFING TIME: 2:05 pm - 2:30 pm
EVENT TIME: 2:30 pm - 2:45 pm (Meet and Greet)
2:45 pm - 3:30 pm (Event)
FROM: Bruce Reed

I. PURPOSE

To unite Democrats behind challenge to the Republican Leadership to stop playing politics and pass your remaining education proposals.

II. BACKGROUND

So far, the current Congress has done almost nothing to improve public schools. This is an opportunity to call on the Republican leadership to set aside one of the few remaining days this year to vote on and pass your education agenda to reduce class size, modernize schools, and make the needed investments in after-school programs, technology, and other tools to bring our schools into the 21st century.

At this event you will be joined by more than 60 Congressional Democrats, 150 educators and education leaders, and a 6th grade class from a local elementary school who will be wearing t-shirts displaying the "One Day, One Vote" challenge to Congress.

We have worked with Daschle, Gebhardt, and other leading Democrats on a unified, three-part agenda that a willing Congress could pass in a single day:

- **Smaller Classes With Well-Prepared Teachers.** You will urge Congress to pass your Class Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act, to provide \$12 billion over 7 years to help local communities hire 100,000 teachers and reduce class size to a national average of 18 in grades 1-3.
- **Modern Schools for the 21st Century.** You will urge Congress to pass your School Modernization initiative, which will provide local communities with \$22 billion in interest-free bonds to help renovate, modernize and build over 5,000 schools nationwide to reduce overcrowding, fix leaky roofs, and make schools safer.

- **Critical Investments in After-School Programs, Education Technology and Basic Education.** You will urge Congress to fully fund your FY 1999 budget request to strengthen public schools by raising standards, increasing accountability, expanding public school choice, strengthening teaching and learning and keeping our schools safe and drug-free. Overall, the House Labor/HHS appropriations bill is \$2 billion below the funding you requested for your education priorities, and fails to make critical investments needed to raise academic standards, help young children learn to read and all students master the basics, keep our schools drug-free, and give disadvantaged students and their families pathways to college. While the Senate bill rejects the extreme cuts made by the House, it falls \$1 billion short in funding your education priorities, and shortchanges programs that help young children learn to read, help children become proficient in English and learn academic subjects, establish innovative charter schools, and keep middle schools safe and drug-free.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The Vice President

Secretary Riley

Representative David Bonior (*Note: Rep. Gephardt will be in flight to D.C. at this time)

Senator Tom Daschle

Kathryn Scruggs, Reading Teacher, Ashlawn Elementary School, Arlington, Va.

Seated on stage: 60 Members of Congress.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- YOU will be announced out of the State Dining room accompanied by all stage participants and Members of Congress and proceed to the stage in the East Room.
- Secretary Riley will make welcoming remarks and introduce Rep. Bonior.
- Rep. Bonior will make remarks and introduce Senator Daschle.
- Senator Daschle will make remarks and introduce Kathryn Scruggs.
- Kathryn Scruggs will make remarks and introduce the Vice President.
- The Vice President will make remarks and introduce YOU.
- YOU will make remarks.
- YOU will work a ropeline and then depart.

VI. REMARKS

Provided by Speechwriting.

ONE DAY, ONE VOTE FOR AMERICA'S SCHOOLS: PRESIDENT CLINTON CHALLENGES CONGRESS TO SET POLITICS ASIDE AND PASS EDUCATION PLAN

"Stop playing partisan politics for just one day and devote that day to strengthening America's public schools."

President Bill Clinton October 1, 1998

ONE DAY FOR AMERICA'S SCHOOLS. President Clinton will challenge Congressional leaders to leave politics at the schoolhouse door and take immediate action to help ensure every American student receives a world-class education. Joined by Vice President Gore and Congressional Democrats, President Clinton will urge the Congress to set aside one of the few remaining days this year to vote on and pass his education agenda to reduce class size to a national average of 18, modernize 5,000 schools nationwide, and make the needed investments to provide schools and students with after-school programs, technology, and other tools to bring our schools into the 21st century.

- **Smaller Classes With Well-Prepared Teachers.** President Clinton will urge Congress to pass the Class Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act, to provide \$12 billion over 7 years to help local communities hire 100,000 teachers and reduce class size to a national average of 18 in grades 1-3. Studies show that smaller classes help teachers provide more personal attention to students, reduce discipline problems, and improve student achievement.
- **Modern Schools for the 21st Century.** President Clinton will urge Congress to pass his School Modernization initiative, which will provide local communities with \$22 billion in interest-free bonds to help renovate, modernize and build over 5,000 schools nationwide to reduce overcrowding, fix leaky roofs, and make schools safer.
- **Critical Investments in After-School Programs, Education Technology and the Basics.** President Clinton will urge the Congress to fully fund his FY 1999 budget request to strengthen public schools by raising standards, increasing accountability, expanding public school choice, strengthening teaching and learning and keeping our schools safe and drug free.
 - **After-School programs for academic enrichment and extra help in a safe, supervised environment.** The President's budget would provide after-school opportunities for up to 500,000 students, with tutoring, academic enrichment, supervised recreation and community service opportunities in safe, drug-free environments.
 - **Education technology.** The President has made an unprecedented commitment to bringing technology to the classroom by calling for technology training for teachers and expanding access to computers in the classroom. His budget asks for \$721 million.
 - **Strengthening public schools, not selling them short.** Overall, the House Labor/HHS appropriations bill fails to fund \$2 billion of the President education initiatives by failing to make critical investments needed to raise academic standards, help young children learn to read and all students master the basics, keep our schools drug-free, and give disadvantaged students and their families pathways to college. While the Senate bill rejects the extreme cuts made by the House, it falls one billion short in funding the President's priorities, and shortchanges programs that help young children learn to read, help children become proficient in English and learn academic subjects, establish innovative charter schools, and keep middle schools safe and drug-free.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
ONE DAY, ONE VOTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION**

October 1, 1998

"There is no excuse for inaction. The leadership in Congress has an obligation to devote at least one day to the future of public education in America. One day to affirm the bedrock American value that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income, deserves the chance to share the bounty of this country's prosperity by gaining a first-class education. One day to put aside partisan games and do the work that the American people elected them to do."

President Bill Clinton
October 1, 1998

Today at the White House, President Clinton is joined by Vice President Al Gore and over 60 Congressional members to urge Congress to set aside one of the few remaining days in this year's Congressional session to vote on and pass the President's education agenda.

ONE DAY FOR AMERICA'S SCHOOLS. As we move into the 21st Century, nothing we do will more directly enhance our economic competitiveness than strengthening our public schools. Eight months ago, the President sent his education agenda to Congress, an agenda that demands accountability and responsibility from students, parents, teachers, and administrators -- yet Congress has not acted to pass this legislation. The President is calling for:

- **Smaller Classes With Well-Prepared Teachers.** President Clinton is urging Congress to pass the Class Size Reduction and Teachers Quality Act, to provide funding over the next 7 years to help local communities hire 100,000 new teachers and reduce class size in grades 1 -3 to a national average of 18;
- **Modern Schools For The 21st Century.** The President is calling on Congress to pass his School Modernization Initiative, which will provide communities with interest-free bonds to help renovate, modernize, and build over 5,000 schools nationwide;
- **Critical Investments In After-School Programs And Education Technology.** President Clinton's proposal would provide after-school opportunities for up to 500,000 students, giving them needed tutoring, academic enrichment, supervised recreation and community service opportunities in safe, drug-free environments. The President is also making an unprecedented commitment to education technology, calling for every school to be wired to the Internet and increasing technology training for teachers;
- **Strengthening Public Schools, Not Selling Them Short.** Overall, the House Labor-HHS appropriations bill does not support the President's initiatives. The House bill fails to make critical investments needed to raise academic standards, help young children learn to read and all students master basic skills, keep our schools drug-free, and give disadvantaged students and their families pathways to college. While the Senate bill rejects the more severe cuts made by the House, it still falls short of supporting the President's priorities to help children become proficient in English, establish innovative charter schools, and keep middle schools safe and drug-free.

CHALLENGING CONGRESS TO PUT POLITICS ASIDE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN. Our country has the best higher education in the world, but our country also deserves the finest K-12 educational system in the world. The President's education agenda will help our children learn in a world-class environment, ensure that they have the tools to compete in the 21st Century, and learn in safe and drug-free schools. Congress should put aside politics and devote one day to strengthening America's public schools.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION

September 9, 1998

In remarks to students, parents, and teachers at Hillcrest Elementary School in Orlando, Florida, President Clinton today called on Congress to act immediately to pass his education initiatives to strengthen public education. The President also announced the release earlier in the day of (1) a report on reading and math achievement scores of 4th graders in high-poverty schools and (2) federal school safety grants totaling \$16 million that will enable schools to partner with law enforcement officers to improve safety and discipline in schools.

4TH GRADE MATH AND READING ACHIEVEMENT. The President announced that the U.S. Department of Education today released a report on how students in high-poverty schools perform on the 4th grade math and reading National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests. The report documents a continuing gap in both reading and math performance between students in high-poverty schools and students in low-poverty schools; the report, however, also shows that the gap in math performance is declining.

- Math scores show significant achievement gains among 4th grade students in high-poverty schools between 1992 and 1996. The percentage of 4th graders in high-poverty schools that scored at least at the basic level increased from 26 percent in 1992 to 42 percent in 1996. A total of 27 states showed significant gains in math for 4th grade students in high-poverty schools.
- Achievement gap in math is significant but narrowing. In 1996, students in high-poverty schools scored an average of 22 points below their peers in low-poverty schools. In 1992, this gap stood at 28 points and in 1994, it was 24 points.
- Reading scores among 4th grade students in high-poverty schools remained relatively flat between 1992 and 1994. Only five states demonstrated significant gains in reading for 4th grade students in high-poverty schools.
- Achievement gap in reading is higher than in math. The average difference in reading achievement between students in high-poverty schools and students in low-poverty schools was 38 points in 1996. Even this gap, however, has declined somewhat from a total of 40 points in 1992 and 1994.

GIVING SCHOOLS THE TOOLS TO HELP EVERY CHILD MEET HIGH STANDARDS.

President Clinton reiterated his call on Congress to pass education initiatives to help all children reach challenging academic standards, strengthen accountability, provide access to technology, improve the quality of teaching, expand Head Start and after school programs, and make our schools safe and drug-free.

Voluntary National Standards and Tests. President Clinton is calling for voluntary national standards and tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math to help students master the basic skills and to give parents, communities, and educators accurate information on how well our students perform. In order to close the achievement gap, we have to set the same high standards for all children.

Education Opportunity Zones. President Clinton is urging Congress to strengthen schools in high poverty communities by providing funds to school districts that are raising student achievement by ending social promotions and requiring students to meet academic standards at key transition points; rewarding outstanding teachers and fairly and quickly removing ineffective teachers; and turning around failing schools.

Reduce Class Size. The President is pressing Congress to enact his proposal to reduce class size to a national average of 18 in grades 1-3, by helping local schools hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. Research shows that smaller classes increase student achievement and have the greatest impact on the academic achievement of disadvantaged students.

Helping Every Eight-Year Old Learn To Read. President Clinton is continuing to work with Congress to enact a child literacy bill to ensure that children receive quality instruction from well-trained teachers and have opportunities to develop their reading skills with trained tutors after-school time and on weekends.

Strengthening And Expanding Charter Schools. President Clinton is working with Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to strengthen federal support for the growing charter school movement.

Teacher Preparation and Recruitment. President Clinton is urging Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, including his initiative to strengthen teacher preparation programs and recruitment of well-prepared teachers for underserved high-poverty schools.

Modernizing Our Schools. The President is calling for federal tax credits to help renovate, modernize, and build over 5,000 public schools nationwide.

Extra Support for Students in High Poverty Schools (Title I). The President is pressing forward with his request for additional support to help 520,000 students in high-poverty schools to meet challenging academic standards. The House bill cuts the President's request by \$392 million, while the Senate bill is \$91 million below the President's request.

LEADING AN EFFORT TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS SAFE.

New resources to create safer schools. The President today announced the release by the Department of Justice COPS Office of \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies under the new School-Based Partnerships grant program. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools.

Using community policing to combat and prevent school crime. The School-Based Partnerships program emphasizes the use of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help to forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime and disorder problems such as drug dealing and use, assaults, threats, vandalism, and other student safety issues.

**Q&A on Orlando Hillcrest Elementary School Event
September 9, 1998**

School Poverty and Achievement Report

Q. What is the Department of Education report on School Poverty and Academic Performance?

The Department of Education released a report today that examines the relationship between school poverty and student achievement, comparing trends in the performance of 4th graders in high- and low-poverty schools on reading and math tests from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The report shows that students generally do less well if they attend a school where the majority of students are from disadvantaged circumstances. While this is a long-standing and continuing trend, the report also shows that students in high poverty schools are making progress in math, and closing the achievement gap in that area.

Q. What is a "high poverty school?"

In this report, a school in which half or more of the students come from low-income families are considered to be high-poverty. Overall, 34% of the nation's schools fit this definition. In urban communities, more than 3/4 of the schools are often high poverty schools.

Q. Do you really think that the Administration's education proposals can turn around this long-standing relationship between poverty and student learning? Aren't the problems associated with poverty simply too intractable for changes in schools alone to make a real difference?

While improving the schools alone will not entirely eliminate the effects of poverty on student learning, we are convinced that our proposals, if enacted and implemented, can make a real difference. One of the reasons that students in high poverty schools have poor achievement is because the schools have fewer educational resources--they tend to have fewer well-prepared teachers, larger classes, lower standards and weaker curriculum. At the same time, students in these schools need more help, and more time for learning, than many other students do. The President's proposals are aimed directly at these conditions. For example, the research clearly shows that reductions in class size to 18 or below--as the President has proposed--have the greatest benefit for disadvantaged students. Tutoring programs and after-school programs will also have the greatest benefit for our most disadvantaged students. The President has proposed to help recruit 35,000 well-prepared teachers for high-poverty schools, because these are the schools that are often forced to hire unprepared teachers. National standards will raise expectations for all students, but especially for students in high poverty schools, and will help strengthen accountability for the schools and school systems that serve them. In short, the Administration's education proposals are aimed at changing the conditions in schools that

are responsible for low achievement.

- Q. This report shows that reading achievement has been flat from 1992 to 1996, and that math performance has increased only slightly in the same 4 years. Why hasn't there been more progress under the President's leadership?**

First, improvements in education take time, but they are coming. In addition to gains in math performance as documented in this report, the past 5 years have also seen steady gains in SAT and ACT scores. Earlier this month the College Board reported that average SAT math score is the highest in 27 years.

Second, the gains in math achievement show that the President's approach--to start by raising standards--is the right way to go. In the early 1990's, the nation's math teachers agreed upon high national standards for what students should learn, and now those standards are being implemented in the classroom. The standards are being used to raise expectations for students, upgrade the curriculum, and retrain the teachers. In contrast, until recently there has been great controversy over the best way to teach reading, and the resulting "culture wars" between those who favor phonics and those who favor "whole language" has made it difficult to make needed improvements.

Third, there is still much more to be done. That is why the President is fighting so hard to raise standards, strengthen accountability, expand choice, and to make the needed investments in our schools, so that students can have smaller classes, modern buildings, well prepared teachers, after school programs, tutors, and other important learning opportunities.

School Safety

- Q. Are these school-based partnerships grants new? And how are they different from other actions the President has recommended with regard to putting more law enforcement in schools?**

- A. The \$16.4 million in grants released earlier today are the first ever to go out under the COPS School-Based Partnerships grant program. The President first highlighted the program in March, when the Justice Department announced the availability of the funds. The new initiative not only encourages partnerships between local police departments and schools, but also emphasizes using community policing principles to help prevent and combat school crime.

The President has also called on Congress to pass legislation introduced by Representative James Maloney (D-CN) to help provide for the hiring of more school safety officers through the COPS program. The COPS Office has already provided funds for localities to hire school safety officers -- including Jonesboro, Arkansas which last month received a grant to hire 15 school safety officers.

Q. What else is the Administration doing on school safety?

A. In addition to continuing to challenge the Congress to pass his comprehensive youth violence strategy to address the overarching problem of juvenile crime, the President has taken many actions to address the safety of our nation's schools:

- **White House Conference On School Safety.** In July, the President announced a White House Conference on School Safety, and proclaimed October 15, 1998, National School Safety Day. The White House Conference will be linked by satellite to communities and schools across the country, including those communities affected by the recent wave of school shootings.
- **Early warning guide.** Last month, the President released a guide he directed the Attorney General and Secretary of Education to develop -- for teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. Last week, copies were sent to every school in the country for the start of the school year.
- **First Annual Report on School Safety.** In December, the President called for the development of an Annual Report on School Safety, which will be released on School Safety Day, October 15. The report will include: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local crime reporting; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use, and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime, including a local safety checklist; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined, and drug-free schools.
- **Safe and Drug-Free Schools.** President Clinton expanded the Drug-Free Schools Act into the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act of 1994, making violence prevention a key part of this program, and has proposed to increase funds for the program by \$50 million in FY 99. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program provides support for violence and drug prevention programs to 97% of the nation's school districts.
- **Zero Tolerance for Guns in Schools.** In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, and issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" for guns in schools -- if a student brings a gun to school, that student will be expelled for a year. In 1997, over 6,000 students were expelled for bringing guns to schools.
- **School Uniforms.** School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department

of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice.

- **Cracking Down on Truancy.** Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The President, through the Education Department, issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country.

Educ - K-12 generally

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
MAKING THE INFORMATION AGE AN EDUCATION AGE**

April 24, 1998

"As the Information Age becomes more and more of an Education Age, now is no time to walk away from our commitment to public education, no time to reject our common obligation to preparing our children for the challenges of the future. I am determined to do my part -- to stand by our teachers and our students, to strengthen education in America."

President Bill Clinton
April 24, 1998

Today, President Clinton hosts a Rose Garden event to honor the National Teacher of the Year, Philip Bigler from Virginia, and this year's state teachers of the year. At the event, the President underscores his commitment to education as a national priority, outlines his plans to improve public education, and renews his call to Congress to pass real legislation that strengthens and improves public education.

A PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING K-12 EDUCATION. President Clinton is working to make historic investments and improvements in K-12 education, including initiatives to:

- **Reduce Class Size.** President Clinton proposes a \$12.4 billion initiative over 7 years to help schools provide small classes with qualified teachers in the early grades. The initiative will reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a nationwide average of 18, and will help school districts hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers.
- **Modernize And Build Schools To Improve Student Learning.** In order for students to learn and compete in the global economy, schools must be well-equipped and able to accommodate smaller class sizes. The President proposes federal tax credits to modernize and build more than 5,000 new schools.
- **Achieve High Standards.** The President's education plan includes proposals to ensure that all students attend schools where high standards are taken seriously and kids are given the help they need to succeed. It supports the continued development and implementation of high national standards and national tests, and establishes educational opportunity zones in poor urban and rural communities.
- **End The Practice Of Social Promotion.** No child should be allowed to pass to the next grade unless he or she is adequately prepared. President Clinton is calling for guidelines to help schools end social promotion, ensure that more students learn what they need the first time round, and help those who don't with extra tutoring and summer school.
- **Use Education Reform To Give Communities The Flexibility To Decide What Their Schools Need.** The President's plan expands Ed-Flex, the program that frees states from federal regulations so long as they set high academic standards, waive their own regulations for local schools, and hold schools accountable for results.

WORKING TO PASS "REAL" EDUCATION LEGISLATION. This week, Congress acted in a way that undercuts public education. The Senate voted against modernizing schools, against national standards, and against reducing class size in the first, second and third grades. And earlier this month, a House committee eliminated funding for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards -- a organization important to improving teaching and keeping our best teachers in the classroom. Now is no time to walk away from our commitment to public education and our obligation to prepare our children for the future. President Clinton is determined to do all he can to fight for the legislation needed to strengthen and improve America's schools.

Educ - K-12, generally
~~Education~~

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
THE LARGEST COMMITMENT TO K-12 EDUCATION IN HISTORY**

February 23, 1998

"Every American who is willing to work and study hard can now afford college... We've thrown open the doors to higher learning. Now, we must continue working to make sure all our children can walk through them and seize the opportunities of the future. That is why in my balanced budget, I am proposing the largest commitment to K-12 education in history -- a comprehensive plan to raise standards, raise expectations and raise accountability in our schools."

President Bill Clinton
February 20, 1998

Today, President Clinton hosts a round table discussion with members of the National Governors' Association to discuss a variety of topics, including education, transportation, tobacco, workforce development and child care. At the beginning of the session, the President calls on the Governors to join him in making K-12 education a top priority -- by taking steps to reduce class size, modernize and build new schools, pass national standards, end the practice of social promotion, and continue education reform.

Keeping Education A Top Priority. The President's balanced budget proposal includes historic investments in K-12 education, including initiatives to:

- **Reduce Class Size.** The President's budget includes a \$12.4 billion initiative over 7 years to help local schools provide small classes with qualified teachers in the early grades. The initiative will reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a nationwide average of 18, and will help local school districts hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers.
- **Modernize And Build Schools To Improve Student Learning.** In order for students to learn and compete in the global economy, schools must be well-equipped and able to accommodate smaller class sizes. The President is proposing federal tax credits to modernize and build more than 5,000 new schools -- half of this support will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income students.
- **Achieve High Standards.** The President's balanced budget includes proposals to ensure that all students attend schools where high standards are taken seriously and kids are given the help they need to succeed. It supports the continued development and implementation of high national standards and national tests, and establishes educational opportunity zones in poor urban and rural communities to give students the tools and opportunities needed for success.

- **End The Practice Of Social Promotion.** No child should be allowed to pass to the next grade unless he or she has mastered the material. President Clinton is calling on the Secretary of Education to issue guidelines on how schools can end social promotion, boost efforts to ensure more students learn what they need the first time round, and help those who don't with extra tutoring and summer school.
- **Use Education Reform To Give Communities What Their Schools Need.** President Clinton will send legislation to Congress to expand Ed-Flex, the program that frees states from federal regulations so long as they set high academic standards, waive their own regulations for local schools, and hold schools accountable for results.

DEMOCRATIC UNITY EVENT: EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Now we must make our public elementary and secondary schools the world's best...by raising standards, raising expectations, and raising accountability.
President Clinton, 1998 State of the Union Address

Democrats are proposing new initiatives that will dramatically strengthen elementary and secondary education. These proposals will help ensure that all students start out in a small class with a good teacher, in a safe, modern school. They will help ensure that students, especially in high poverty urban and rural areas, attend schools where high standards are taken seriously and kids are given the help they need to succeed. These proposals will dramatically expand access to safe havens for after-school learning, put computers in the classroom and help make teachers as comfortable with computers as they are with the blackboard. The High Hopes initiative recently announced by President Clinton will help provide low-income students with mentoring and encouragement to help them finish school and continue on to college.

Small Classes with Qualified Teachers to Improve Reading in Grades 1-3. President Clinton is proposing a \$12.4 billion initiative over 7 years (\$7.3 billion over 5 years) to help local schools provide small classes with qualified teachers in the early grades. This will help ensure that every child receives personal attention, learns to read independently and gets a solid foundation for further learning. The new initiative will reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a nationwide average of 18, providing funds to help local school districts hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers. The initiative will also provide funds to states and local school districts to test new teachers, develop more rigorous teacher testing and certification requirements, and train teachers in effective reading instruction practices.

Modern School Buildings to Improve Student Learning. In order for students to learn and to compete in the global economy, schools must be well-equipped and they must be able to accommodate smaller class sizes. To address these and other critical needs, Democrats are proposing Federal tax credits to pay interest on nearly \$22 billion in bonds to build and renovate more than 5,000 public schools. The tax credits will cost the Treasury \$5 billion over 5 years, and \$11.6 billion over ten years. Of the \$22 billion in bond authority, nearly \$20 billion is for new School Modernization Bonds. Half of this bond authority will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income children, and the other half will be allocated to the States. In addition, Democrats are proposing a more than \$2.4 billion expansion of the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds, school-business partnerships that will include funding for school construction and renovation.

Education Opportunity Zones: Helping Students in Poor Communities Reach High Standards. This initiative will strengthen public schools and help students master

the basics where the need is the greatest. The Education Department will select approximately 50 high poverty urban and rural school districts that agree to: (1) use high standards and tests of student achievement to identify and provide help to students, teachers and schools who need it; (2) prevent students from falling behind by ensuring quality teaching, challenging curricula, and extended learning time; and (3) end social promotion and turn around failing schools. Added investments in these communities will accelerate their progress and provide successful models of system-wide, standards-based reform for the nation. This initiative will invest \$200 million in FY99, and \$1.5 billion over 5 years, to raise achievement and share lessons learned with school districts around the country.

Expanding Access to Safe After-School Care. To help create safe, positive learning environments for American school-age children who lack adult supervision during a typical week, Democrats will work to increase the 21st Century Learning Center Program to support school-community partnerships that expand or establish programs providing after-school care for up to half a million children a year. To accomplish this, the President has proposed to increase funding by \$800 million over five years.

Educational Technology: Democrats will continue the effort to make sure that all of our children have access to the "information superhighway," and to broaden access to high quality learning opportunities for adults using the Internet and other new technologies. This year, the Administration's educational technology investments--\$770 million overall--will place special emphasis on technology training for teachers, so that all new teachers entering the workforce can use technology effectively in the classroom, and that there is at least one teacher who can serve as a technology expert in every school to help other teachers. Democrats, together with the Administration, will also fight to preserve the \$2.25 billion per year in discounts to connect schools and libraries to the Internet (the "e-rate") -- which was authorized by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

High Hopes for College: Democrats have been leading the effort to give information about college opportunity to all Americans, especially those in poor neighborhoods. Democrats are now advancing a new initiative to inspire more of our young people to have high expectations, to stay in school and study hard, and to go to college. This long-term investment -- starting with \$140 million in the FY 99 Budget -- would promote partnerships between colleges and middle or junior high schools in low-income communities, to provide children with the support they need starting in sixth or seventh grade and continuing through high school graduation. Working with parents, community and religious groups, and businesses, the partnerships would provide information about what it means and what it takes to go to college, as well as support services -- such as mentoring, tutoring, college visits, summer programs, after-school activities, and counseling -- to help the children stay on track. The partnerships will help ensure that children have access to the rigorous

core courses that prepare them for college and let parents know how they can help their children prepare for college. High Hopes would also provide children and their families at middle and junior high schools in low-income communities with a 21st Century Scholar certificate, an official, early notification of the amount of their eligibility for Federal college aid, so that families will know that college is affordable regardless of their income.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY RAISING STANDARDS, RAISING EXPECTATIONS, RAISING ACCOUNTABILITY

February 23, 1998

"Every American who is willing to work and study hard can now afford college... We've thrown open the doors to higher learning. Now, we must continue working to make sure all our children can walk through them and seize the opportunities of the future. That is why in my balanced budget, I am proposing the largest commitment to K-12 education in history -- a comprehensive plan to raise standards, raise expectations and raise accountability in our schools."

President Bill Clinton

February 20, 1998

Ending Social Promotions. President Clinton announced that, before the next school year begins, the Education Department will release a guidebook that will tell every state, school district and school how to end social promotions -- the practice of promoting students from grade to grade even if they have not learned the material and met academic standards. The President called on the Education Department to help schools design programs that (1) prepare students to meet standards on time (by providing them with grade-by-grade standards and a rigorous curriculum, smaller classes, and well prepared teachers, and by identifying students who need extra help early on and providing them the help they need); (2) provide students who do not meet the standard with immediate help such as after-school and summer school programs; and (3) provide effective interventions for students who must be retained.

Keeping National Standards and Tests on a Bipartisan Track. President Clinton announced today that Secretary of Education Riley has appointed Gov. John Engler (R. Michigan) to serve on the National Assessment Governing Board, the independent, bipartisan body responsible for overseeing the development of voluntary national tests in the basic skills. Gov. Engler fills the NAGB seat representing Republican governors, and joins Gov. Roy Romer (D. Colorado) as the two gubernatorial members of NAGB. Under Gov. Engler's leadership, Michigan was the second state in the Nation to announce its participation in the testing program.

A National Effort to Help States Reduce Class Size. President Clinton called on Congress to enact his proposal for a national effort to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18. Calling for a federal/state partnership to provide smaller classes with qualified teachers so that every student receives personal attention, gets a solid foundation for further learning, and masters the basic skills in reading and math, President Clinton praised recent class size reduction initiatives in state such as California, Nevada and Wisconsin as well as new class size reduction proposals in Delaware and other states.

President Clinton also pointed to findings from a recent evaluation of Wisconsin's SAGE (Student Achievement Guarantee in Education) Program, a statewide initiative to reduce the student-teacher ratio to 15:1 in kindergarten through third grade. The first-year evaluation shows that first grade students in smaller classes, when compared to similar students in schools not participating in the program, made significant gains in reading, language arts and math. The

study reported that the smaller class sizes provided by the SAGE program were particularly effective for improving achievement among low income students and African-American students. When combined with the widely reported findings from the Tennessee STAR program, this study underscores that research, together with the common sense of teachers and parents, shows that reducing class size will help improve student achievement.

Freeing Schools from Red Tape: Accountability and Flexibility in Federal Education Programs. President Clinton announced today that he would send Congress legislation permitting each state to waive most statutory and regulatory requirements in key federal elementary and secondary education programs. To be eligible, a state must be able to waive its own regulations on schools, and must hold schools accountable for results by setting academic standards and measuring student performance, requiring schools to public school report cards and by intervening in low performing schools. School reports cards must show student progress toward meeting academic standards for the school as a whole and disaggregated to demographic subgroups.

The President's proposal would expand the existing Ed-Flex demonstration program, part of the Goals 2000 Act, which is now limited to 12 states under current law. It authorizes state education agencies to waive most statutory and regulatory requirements in federal elementary and secondary education programs, and requires states to provide the same flexibility to local schools with respect to their own education regulations.

President Clinton's proposal will affect all programs in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including the Title 1 Program that provides extra help to disadvantaged students, the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program, the Eisenhower Professional Development Program, and the Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act. States may not waive civil rights requirements or provisions of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act.

Expanding Ed-Flex is part of a long-standing effort by the Clinton Administration to reinvent federal education programs. Since the 1994 enactment of Goals 2000, the Education Department has cut elementary and secondary program regulations by 69%, administered new programs such as Goals 2000 and School-to-Work without any new regulations; provided waivers to federal education requirements for the first time in history in order to allow states and school districts to use federal education funds in a manner that best support their education reforms. Since 1994, the Education Department has provided nearly 250 waivers to school districts in 49 states. In an additional 140 instances, no waivers were necessary for school districts to carry out the desired activities. Twelve states--Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Vermont--already participate in Ed-Flex.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
THE LARGEST COMMITMENT TO K-12 EDUCATION IN HISTORY**

February 23, 1998

"Every American who is willing to work and study hard can now afford college... We've thrown open the doors to higher learning. Now, we must continue working to make sure all our children can walk through them and seize the opportunities of the future. That is why in my balanced budget, I am proposing the largest commitment to K-12 education in history -- a comprehensive plan to raise standards, raise expectations and raise accountability in our schools."

President Bill Clinton
February 20, 1998

Today, President Clinton hosts a round table discussion with members of the National Governors' Association to discuss a variety of topics, including education, transportation, tobacco, workforce development and child care. At the beginning of the session, the President calls on the Governors to join him in making K-12 education a top priority -- by taking steps to reduce class size, modernize and build new schools, pass national standards, end the practice of social promotion, and continue education reform.

KEEPING EDUCATION A TOP PRIORITY. The President's balanced budget proposal includes historic investments in K-12 education, including initiatives to:

- **Reduce Class Size.** The President's budget includes a \$12.4 billion initiative over 7 years to help local schools provide small classes with qualified teachers in the early grades. The initiative will reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a nationwide average of 18, and will help local school districts hire an additional 100,000 well-prepared teachers.
- **Modernize And Build Schools To Improve Student Learning.** In order for students to learn and compete in the global economy, schools must be well-equipped and able to accommodate smaller class sizes. The President is proposing federal tax credits to modernize and build more than 5,000 new schools -- half of this support will be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of low-income students.
- **Achieve High Standards.** The President's balanced budget includes proposals to ensure that all students attend schools where high standards are taken seriously and kids are given the help they need to succeed. It supports the continued development and implementation of high national standards and national tests, and establishes educational opportunity zones in poor urban and rural communities to give students the tools and opportunities needed for success.
- **End The Practice Of Social Promotion.** No child should be allowed to pass to the next grade unless he or she has mastered the material. President Clinton is calling on the Secretary of Education to issue guidelines on how schools can end social promotion, boost efforts to ensure more students learn what they need the first time round, and help those who don't with extra tutoring and summer school.
- **Use Education Reform To Give Communities What Their Schools Need.** President Clinton will send legislation to Congress to expand Ed-Flex, the program that frees states from federal regulations

so long as they set high academic standards, waive their own regulations for local schools, and hold schools accountable for results.