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Talking Points -- Education, 2/9/89

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TALKING POINTS**EDUCATION**

The President has proposed a series of new education initiatives to strengthen and encourage greater excellence throughout our education system. His initiatives are built upon four key principles, which represent his determination to follow through on his mandate to be the "Education President."

1. Excellence and success in education should be recognized and rewarded.

- o Merit Schools: This initiative provides recognition of schools whose students make significant educational progress over time. For FY 90, \$250 million is requested, with growth projected to \$500 million in FY 93.
- o Teachers' Awards: The President's Award for Excellence in Education (\$5,000 cash) will be presented to top teachers in every state.
- o National Science Scholars: Outstanding high school students in mathematics and science -- each selected by a Congressman, Senator, or the President -- will receive up to \$10,000 annually for four years in scholarship awards.
- o Experiments for Educational Achievement: The pursuit of excellence requires experimentation, innovation, and better data; support will be provided to the best innovators with the best ideas.

2. Federal funding should be targeted to those who need it most.

- o Merit Schools: This initiative provides recognition of schools whose students make significant educational progress over time. Special emphasis will be placed on schools enrolling substantial numbers of disadvantaged students who show significant educational progress.
- o Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A special fund of \$60 million -- over four years -- will be developed to build, through matching grants, the endowments of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

3. Choice and flexibility -- for educators, parents and students -- are important to educational reform and to achieving excellence.
 - o Magnet Schools: An annual fund of \$100 million in new appropriations is requested to assist in the creation and development of magnet schools which offer students and parents enriched educational choices.
 - o Alternative Certification for Teachers and Principals: This initiative will assist those states interested in developing or enhancing programs to bring individuals with excellent subject area knowledge into the classroom, and proven managers into school management.
4. Greater accountability is needed in the education system to assure that students are actually receiving the highest quality education. Success should be rewarded; programs which do not work should be changed.
 - o Accountability in Education Programs: The Secretary of Education will review the Federal education programs and implement improvements in accountability systems. The Federal government should be a model in assuring that its programs are successful.

Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos will be working with the President to implement these initiatives.

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