

The Clinton Presidency: Expanding Education Opportunity

President Clinton has made improving education a cornerstone of his Administration, ensuring that all Americans have the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in today's global information economy. Through his leadership, President Clinton has helped raise expectations for all students, supported states in developing and putting in place rigorous standards and systems of assessment and accountability, and invested in proven strategies to improve the educational performance of all students. President Clinton and Vice President Gore's commitment to invest more in our schools while also demanding more from them more has led to remarkable progress in key areas such as standards and accountability, student performance, closing the achievement gap, technology, and increased access to higher education.

Raising Standards and Holding Schools Accountable for Results

- ✓ THEN: In 1992, test scores were falling and only 14 states had standards in core subjects. In 1990, only 38 percent of graduating high schools seniors had taken a core curriculum of four years of English and three years each of Math, Science and Social Studies. Less than 80 percent of the nation's highest-poverty schools received Title I funds, which are intended to aid the most disadvantaged schools. And students in disadvantaged schools faced watered-down curricula and low expectations instead of high standards that challenged them to succeed.
- ✓ NOW: President Clinton and Vice President Gore launched an era of education reform based on setting high standards for all schools and students and providing the support and help to meet them. Higher standards have begun to pay off for America's students. Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools. Math SAT scores are at a 30-year high.
 - President Clinton and Vice President Gore enacted Goals 2000 which has helped States establish standards of excellence for all children, and implement steps to meet those standards and to raise educational achievement. Under the Clinton-Gore Administration, 49 states have implemented standards in core subjects and 55 percent of graduating high schools seniors had taken a core curriculum.
 - The President enacted legislation targeting Title I funds to high-poverty schools and requiring States and school districts to turn around low-performing schools. Today, nearly all of the nation's highest-poverty schools receive Title I funds. In 1999, the President enacted a new \$134 million Education Accountability Fund, which is helping school districts improve low-performing schools by investing in proven reforms.
 - The Clinton-Gore Administration has worked to expand public school choice and to support the growth of public charter schools. In 1993, there was one charter school in the nation; today, there are more than 2,000.

Clinton-Gore Reforms Are Improving America's Schools

"Over the last eight years, President Clinton has proven a friend to education. ... Because of new investments in teacher quality, the staff at my school received intensive professional development in reading instruction that led to more effective teaching and improved test scores in all subjects. Additionally, our children now have access to the Internet in all of our classrooms, and our class sizes are decreasing from 25 to 18, allowing teachers to spend more time on individualized instruction and encouragement."

-- Ruth Summerlin, Principal, Beaufort Elementary School, Beaufort, South Carolina. Beaufort Elementary School serves a predominantly low-income population of 573 students in grades Pre-K through 5. Five years ago Beaufort Elementary School was classified as one of the worst 200 schools in South Carolina. After implementing a five-year school improvement plan, Beaufort Elementary has now been named a Blue Ribbon School. Last year's test scores indicated that their students were above the district and state averages in both reading and math. Beaufort has both after-school and summer school programs for remediation in both reading and math. The school receives Title I funding, and their district received Goals 2000 funding.

Administration's Efforts Produce Dramatic Charter School Expansion

"The charter school movement is one of the Administration's most important legacies. Its support for charter schools as a desirable and effective form of public school choice has helped convince millions of people, from State legislators to civil rights legend Rosa Parks to Arizona's teacher of the year Karen Butterfield, that the charter movement has great value. ... The dramatic expansion of charter schools from one State and one school to 36 States and 1,700 schools is a direct result of the Administration's vigorous efforts."

-- Joe Nathan, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Social Change, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, April 2000.

Improving the Quality of Education with High Quality Teachers

- ✓ THEN: Education gaps between Americans and the rest of the world emerged in the 1980s and showed no signs of improvement in the early 1990s, as American test scores remained low. Students were often placed in classes with more than 25 students, where teachers were unable to maintain order or give students the personal attention they needed to learn. In 1992, less than 80 percent of English and Math teachers had a college major or minor in their teaching field, and only 282 teachers were certified as National Board Teachers as recently as 1995.
- ✓ NOW: The Clinton-Gore Administration has made the recruitment, preparation, and training of high-quality teachers a priority. President Clinton and Vice President Gore proposed and enacted the Class Size Reduction Initiative, which is helping communities hire 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. They created Troops to Teachers in 1994 to help improve public school education by injecting the skills and experience of military service members into high-poverty schools. Thanks to the Clinton Administration's support of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the number of National Board Teachers has climbed to 4,804 in

1999. And in 1999, 86 percent of English teachers and 82 percent of Math teachers had a major or minor in their teaching field.

Clinton-Gore Reforms Are Improving America's Schools

"I have seen many education initiatives come and go over my 20 years of teaching but I have only a strong opinion on one. Anyone who teaches or mentors a child wishes they had more time to impact their life. We however cannot alter the laws of the universe and create more hours in the day. The simple and doable solution for making this extra time is President Clinton's class-size reduction initiative. Because we have more teachers teaching reading we have more time with the students each year. I have taught grades 1-5 but because of President Clinton's vision, I am now a reading initiative teacher. I can now work with staff and students at a variety of ages and ability levels to meet the goals of our reading program. The President's initiative has made it possible to create classrooms of 15 students or less at our school to ensure success for every student. My students will learn better this year because I have more time to spend with them and I will have more time thanks to President Clinton."

-- Robin Davis, Elementary School Teacher. Robin Davis is a reading teacher at Brooke Grove Elementary Olney, Maryland. She was hired with funds from the President's class size reduction initiative. Mrs. Davis introduced the President in September 1999 at a back-to-school event at Brooke Grove Elementary.

Expanding Access to Technology in Schools

- ✓ **THEN:** A decade ago, computers were largely luxuries found only in the most affluent school districts. In 1993, only three percent of classrooms had computers that were connected to the Internet, and in 1994 only 35 percent of public schools had Internet access. Students had little opportunity to learn to use computers and to explore the Internet, and the government had not mobilized its resources to expand the use of technology in our schools.
- ✓ **NOW:** Understanding the critical importance of incorporating technology into the classroom, the Clinton-Gore Administration made increasing access to technology in our schools a top priority. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created the E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. In addition, with the Vice President's leadership the E-rate has secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, providing discounts worth over \$2 billion annually. The number of classrooms connected to the Internet increased to 65 percent in 1999, while the number of public schools connected rose to more than 95 percent. President Clinton increased investments in educational technology and training from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million in FY 2000.

Education Technology Connects Students to New Opportunities

Victor Shen, Whittier, Alaska. Victor Shen is a 16-year-old high school junior who is one of more than 30 million American children who are online because of the Vice President's E-rate. Victor lives in Whittier Alaska, which is isolated from the rest of the world for six months out of the year because of its remote location and severe weather. Victor was cut off from commerce, cut off from transportation, cut off from society, and cut off from pursuing his dream for the future. Victor wanted to grow up to be a mathematician, but his teachers didn't have the best resources to teach him; nor could they afford an Internet connection to connect Victor to his dream. Thanks to Al Gore's effort and the E-rate, Victor's school is now connected to the Internet and Victor is now connected to learning and connected to his dream. The Whittier Community School is now online because of the 90 percent discount they received from the E-rate. Now, the E-rate and the Internet are helping send Victor to Australia. He found and applied to the People to People Student Ambassador Program online and he will be able to travel far beyond his small village of Whittier to become part of the global village. The E-rate has enabled Victor and all the students of the Whittier Community School to expand the walls of the classroom and see all the wonderful opportunities that lie beyond Whittier.

"The Internet allowed my students to go to a place and learn about something they could never have done before. The Internet erases boundaries of age and class. Everyone can access it in an equal way. In Paradise, this is especially important because of the limitations some of these children face."

-- **Beth Paterson, fourth-grade teacher at Paradise Elementary, California.** Paradise Elementary is a part of the Paradise Unified School District, which serves Paradise and Magalia, an isolated and rural community in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada Mountains with a significant low-income population. The E-Rate has allowed Paradise to build \$300,000 of network infrastructure, networked computers and installed T-1 lines.

Keeping Young People on the Path to Success

- ✓ **THEN:** In 1992, achievement for low-income high school students was lower than that of the national norm. Just 62 percent of high school graduates – and only 44 percent of low-income high school graduates – went on to college, and the number of high school drop-outs was on the rise.
- ✓ **NOW:** President Clinton and Vice President Gore have invested in our young people to keep them in school and on the path to a successful future. President Clinton created GEAR UP, a nationwide mentoring and tutoring initiative, to provide early, sustained intervention and extra financial help. To date, GEAR UP has helped 700,000 low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college academically and financially. President Clinton has also increased investments in after school programs, which have provided enriching after school and summer school opportunities for 850,000 school-age children in rural and urban communities. In addition, the \$15 million Advanced Placement Incentive initiative encourages low-income students to take AP classes and tests by paying test fees and strengthening instruction. The AP Initiative has already helped over 100,000 students. In 1998, the number of high school graduates going on to college had increased to 67 percent; by 1997, the number of low-income high school graduates going to college was up to 51 percent.

GEAR UP Helps Students Aim High

"Now I know what it takes to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. I am more focused than ever and there's no stopping me now!"

-- **Toya Doe, 7th grade GEAR UP student** at Sulzberger Middle School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Through GEAR UP, Toya has focused on her studies, learned more about college, and has been introduced to mentors and role models who can guide her in reaching her goals.

After School Programs Provide Safe Learning Opportunities for Students

"Juvenile crime is down 70 percent in Carbon County, and we can thank the coordinated efforts of everyone. The afterschool program plays a major part in keeping our kids off the streets and out of trouble."

-- **Judge Johansen, Utah.** In Price, Utah, the 21st Century Community Learning Center program is serving 11 sites and benefiting over 1,000 students in the Carbon School District. The program's goal – to improve academic performance through afterschool activities – is being met through a wide range of activities including tutoring, access to computers, extended library hours, parenting skills, nutrition and health programs, and summer and weekend remedial catch-up programs offered in conjunction with recreation programs. The Truancy Mediation Council for the district requires afterschool tutoring for all students not attending school regularly; students who do not attend are referred to the Juvenile Court.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Improve Student Achievement

"I truly believe that these extra curricular activities, made possible through the 21st CCLC grant, result in increased student achievement, greater self-esteem in students, and improved self-discipline. Thank you for making these opportunities possible for our students."

-- **Alyce Wallace, Moulton Elementary Extended Learning Center, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Opening the Doors of Higher Education to All Americans

- ✓ **THEN:** With tuition costs skyrocketing and little help from the government, middle class families were struggling to put their children through college. In 1992, only 43 percent of students benefited from federal student grants and loans, and more than 22 percent of student loan borrowers defaulted within two years of entering repayment. The maximum Pell Grant award was \$2,300, and its value had not kept up with inflation.
- ✓ **NOW:** To open the doors of college to all Americans, the Clinton-Gore Administration enacted the largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill. President Clinton and Vice President Gore created HOPE Scholarships and Lifetime Learning tax credits, which were claimed in 1999 by an estimated 10 million American families struggling to pay for college. Lower student loan interest rates and fees have saved students over \$9 billion; the average \$10,000 loan costs \$1,300 less than it did in 1993. The student loan default rate has fallen for seven straight years and is now a record-low 8.8 percent. President Clinton expanded the Work-Study program and increased the Pell Grant maximum award to \$3,300 – the highest amount ever. In 1999, 59 percent of students benefited from federal student grants and loans.

Hope Scholarship Expands Family College Opportunity

"My son is studying for a master's degree in chemistry, my daughter is a freshman at the University of Virginia, and I hope to return to school to finish my college degree in art history. It's hard to afford that much tuition, but the Hope Scholarship has made a real difference for my family. In combination with Virginia's public colleges and other financial aid, it's really a good picture."

-- **Catheryn Moore, Virginia.** In 1997, she was attending Northern Virginia Community College, her son was a sophomore at the University of Virginia, and her daughter was a sophomore in high school. Her husband works for the federal government. The Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credit won by President Clinton could help make her continuing education -- as well as the college education of her children -- more affordable for her family.

Direct Student Loans Make College Affordable for Students

"I never regret taking out student loans. I am a teacher. I affect young minds every single day. But the reality is that I still have almost \$40,000 in student loans. As a teacher, I don't make a lot of money. And I also need to help take care of my mother, who has had numerous surgeries and will undergo another this week, and support my brother. I appreciate the help I've gotten meeting my responsibility to repay loans, such as flexible payment plans and the economic hardship forbearance for temporary tough situations in repaying your student loans. President Clinton has also reduced student loan interest rates and made interest payments tax-deductible."

-- **Raquel Talley, 28-year-old substitute teacher in Prince George's County, Maryland** credits student loans with allowing her to earn a college degree and enter a profession she loves. To earn her B.A. and M.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University, she borrowed a total of \$45,000 in direct student loans and still owes about \$38,000. Because she helps support her mother and 30-year-old brother (who has diabetes) on her modest teacher's salary, she has twice enrolled in forbearance and is now enrolled in the extended flexible repayment plan. She also mentors teenage girls through the Delteens program and encourages them to plan to attend college.

"I need to graduate from college to pursue my dream of a career in information technology. That simply wouldn't be possible without student loans."

-- **Heather Ely is a junior at DePaul University.** Heather Ely is majoring in computer information systems. After graduation, Heather hopes to pursue a career in the field of information technology. Heather grew up in the small town of Municing, Michigan, where she attended Bay De Noc Community College for two years prior to transferring to DePaul University. While her parents are helping Heather by paying for additional expenses, Heather is financing her college education largely on her own. She receives both federal and private loans and works part time at a local restaurant to finance her college education.

Improving Education for All of America's Children

- ✓ **More States Have Set High Standards:** In 1992, only 14 states had standards in core subjects; today, 49 states have them and 48 have assessments to measure student progress.
- ✓ **Reading and Math Scores Have Increased:** Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools.
- ✓ **Federal Funds are Targeted to Areas of Greatest Need:** The percentage of high-poverty schools receiving Title I funds rose from 79 percent in 1994 to 96 percent in 1998.
- ✓ **More Schools are Connected to the Internet:** The percentage of classrooms with Internet access increasing from three percent in 1993 to 65 percent in 1999. In addition, 95 percent of schools are connected to the Internet, keeping us on track to reach our goal of connecting every school to the information superhighway.
- ✓ **Math SAT Scores are at a Thirty-Year High:** The average SAT math score has gone from 501 in 1992 to 514 in 2000, and the average verbal score has gone from 500 to 505 while more students from diverse backgrounds are taking the test than ever before.
- ✓ **More High School Graduates Going to College:** More high school graduates than ever are going directly to college. Especially notable are the increases in the college-going rate for low-income high school graduates, from 44 percent in 1992 to 51 percent in 1997, and for African American high school graduates, from 50 percent going directly to college in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1997.
- ✓ **Doubled Student Financial Aid:** Since 1993, student aid has doubled to nearly \$60 billion, and more are benefiting from federal student grants and loans – 43 percent in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1999. The maximum Pell Grant has increased from \$2,300 in 1992 to \$3,300 in 2000.
- ✓ **Reduced Costs on Student Loans:** Lower student loan interest rates and fees have saved students over \$9 billion; the average \$10,000 loan costs \$1,300 less than it did in 1993. New direct student loans have saved taxpayers over \$4 billion so far by eliminating lender subsidies.

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President Clinton's Legacy: Expanding Education Opportunities

Education gaps between Americans and the rest of the world had emerged in the 1980s and showed no signs of narrowing in the early 1990s, showed no signs of narrowing. In 1992, the number of high school drop-outs was rising, test scores were falling, and few states had standards in core subjects. Middle class families were struggling to put their children through college, confronted with skyrocketing tuition costs and receiving little help from the federal government. And workers who needed to upgrade their job skills to meet the challenges of a changing workplace were left with nowhere to turn, often trapped in dead end jobs. Polls reported that 63 percent of Americans were "very concerned" about the quality of public schools [We should either cite this poll and include a recent comparison, or cut this out. There are probably polls showing similar responses today...].

Expanding Education Opportunities for All Americans

President Clinton has made improving education a cornerstone of his Administration's priorities, and has focused on ensuring that Americans have the educational opportunities necessary to succeed in today's global Information Age economy. Through his leadership, President Clinton has helped raise expectations for all students, supported states in developing and putting in place rigorous standards and systems of assessment and accountability aligned with those standards, and invested in proven strategies to improve the educational performance of all students.

- Raised standards and held schools accountable for results, by enacting Goals 2000 which has helped States establish standards of excellence for all children, and plan and implement steps to raise educational achievement. The President also enacted legislation targeting Title I funds to high-poverty schools and requiring States and school districts to turn around low-performing schools and targeting Title I funds to high-poverty schools. In 1999 the President enacted a new Education Accountability Fund that will help helping school districts improve low-performing schools by investing in proven reforms such as smaller classes, improved curricula or comprehensive school reform models. President Clinton has also worked to expand public school choice and support the growth of public charter schools, which have increased from one in the nation in 1993 to more than 1,72,000 today. Charter schools not only serve as models of accountability for student performance, but also offer increased competition to spur public school improvements.
- Improved education for all children by enacting the Class Size Reduction Initiative, which will help communities hire 100,000 qualified teachers to reduce class size in the early grades, where children must learn to read and master the basics. President Clinton has also increased our investment in the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to provide enriching after-school and summer school opportunities for 850,000* school-age children in rural and urban communities. And the President created GEAR UP, a nationwide mentoring and tutoring initiative, to help 700,000* low-income middle school children finish school and prepare for college.
- Expanded access to technology in our schools by creating the E-rate and the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to help connect every school to the Internet, increase the number of multimedia computers in the classroom and provide technology training for teachers. President Clinton increased overall investments in educational technology and training from \$23 million in 1993 to \$769 million* in FY 2000, and with t In addition, with the Vice President's leadership, enacted the E-rate, which has secured low-cost connections to the Internet for schools, libraries, rural health clinics and hospitals, providing discounts worth over \$2 billion annually.
- Opened the doors of higher education to all Americans by creating HOPE Scholarships and Lifetime Learning tax credits, which in 1999 were claimed by an estimated 10 million American

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families struggling to pay for college. President Clinton expanded the Work Study program and increased the Pell Grant maximum award to the highest level ever. The President also fought to establish AmeriCorps, which has given young people the opportunity to serve in their communities while earning ~~money~~ scholarships for college.

- Increased access to early childhood education while also improving quality. [Head Start, Early Head Start, CCDBG and Early Learning Fund (if included in budget agreement) could be included here.]
- Enhanced educational opportunities for students with disabilities. [IDEA reauthorization and increase in funding could be included here.]
- Helped ensure children learn to read independently and well by the end of third grade. [America Reads could be included here.]
- Boosted teacher quality to help put a qualified teacher in every classroom. [Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants, Troops to Teachers, support for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and whatever comes out of the budget agreement could be included here.]

The Results: Improving Student Achievement

President Clinton and Vice President Gore's commitment to invest more in our schools while also demanding more from them more has led to remarkable progress in key areas such as standards and accountability, student performance, closing the achievement gap, technology, and increased access to higher education. While insisting on high standards for all students, the Clinton-Gore Administration enacted the largest investment in education in 30 years, and the largest investment in higher education since the GI Bill. ~~His commitment has led to remarkable progress in key areas such as standards and accountability, student performance, closing the achievement gap, technology, and increased access to higher education.~~

- In 1992, only 14 states had standards in core subjects; today, 49 states have them and 48 have assessments to measure student progress.
- Since 1992, reading and math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have increased for 4th, 8th, and 12th graders, including those students in the highest poverty schools.
- Federal funds are targeted to the areas of greatest need -- the percentage of high-poverty schools receiving Title I funds went from 79 percent in 1994 to 96 percent in 1998.
- More schools are connected to the Internet, with the percentage of classrooms with Internet access increasing from 3 percent in 1993 to 65 percent in 1999. ~~It is estimated that by the end of this year, 100 percent of schools will be connected to the Internet.~~ In addition, 95 percent of schools are connected to the Internet, keeping us on track to reach our goal of connecting every school to the information superhighway.
- Math SAT scores are at a thirty-year high. The average SAT math score has gone from 501 in 1992 to 514 in 2000, and the average verbal score has gone from 500 to 505 while more students from diverse backgrounds are taking the test than ever before.
- More high school graduates than ever are going directly to college. The increases in the college-going rate ~~with notable gains~~ for low-income high school graduates, ~~—~~ from 44 percent in 1992 to 51 percent in 1997, and for African American high school graduates, ~~from —~~ 50 percent going directly to college in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1997, are especially notable.
- Since 1993, student aid has doubled to nearly \$60 billion, and more are benefiting from federal student grants and loans — 43 percent in 1992 compared to 59 percent in 1999. The maximum Pell Grant has increased from \$2,300 in 1992 to \$3,300 in 2000.*

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*These numbers are likely to change with the new budget agreement.