

EDUCATION PILLAR						
BUILDING BLOCKS OF PILLAR	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BENEFITS	COSTS/FEASIBILITY	POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS	PRESIDENTIAL TIME COMMITMENT
EDUCATION STANDARDS: National Tests	Persuade 30-40+ states and 30-40+ major cities to sign up for national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math by 1999.	April 1999	Raises expectations and achievement for all students in U.S. elementary and secondary schools, especially low income students.	*In current budget National tests will cost \$16 million per year to develop and \$100 million per year to administer.	Has strong potential for bipartisan and business support, although has attracted outspoken critics.	Significant
	Enact legislation establishing independent governing board (NAGB) for tests.	Sept 1998	Helps states and school districts hold schools accountable for performance.	\$620 million requested for Goals 2000 in FY 98 budget. In addition to the America Reads initiative, additional investments in reading and math materials, professional development and public information will be needed.	Will require intensive continuous public campaign to forge bipartisan congressional support.	
	Pilot tests in 1998 and make ready for nationwide use in Spring 1999.	April 1999		Prospects for long-term success in most states are good but will require us to build and sustain broad nationwide support, and continue with aggressive, case-by-case efforts to address any local barriers to participation.	Will require hard work to maintain support within the minority community.	
	Launch National Partnerships for improving reading and math achievement.	Feb 1998		Must prevent any legislation delaying test development.		
	Support, through Goals 2000 and the IASA, all States in developing common academic standards for their students.	Ongoing				

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EDUCATION STANDARDS: Urban Education Reform/Fixing Failing Schools	Aggressively promote school reform by challenging and/or requiring urban districts to adopt our school reform agenda--no social promotions; public school choice; closing failing schools; firing bad teachers; and improving management--and rewarding those that do.	Legislation by end of 1998. Program duration: 5 years	Low performing schools reconstituted using proven school improvement models. Better use of resources by urban school systems and more choice for parents. Restore public confidence in urban public school systems.	*Requires new legislation and budget authority \$320 million competitive grant program for 10-15 districts to end social promotions, fix failing schools, widen public school choice, fire bad teachers, and improve management. Potential for using Obey whole school reform funds in FY 98 Appropriations bill to partially accomplish. Possibly require Title I schools to adopt no-social-promotions and other reform policies.	May be difficult to secure Congressional support -- suburban/rural members, voucher supporters and liberals against high stakes testing may oppose.	Significant
EDUCATION STANDARDS: Public School Choice	Create 3,000 high-quality, accountable charter schools (up from 1 in 1992 and 500 today). Increase the number of states with charter legislation to 35.	2001 1998	Provides parents with options; increases accountability. Stimulates and informs improvement of all schools. Intervention strategy for low performing schools. Increases public awareness of choices available within the public school system; decreases calls for vouchers.	*In current budget \$100 million appropriation for charter schools program in FY 1998 would support up to 1,100 schools. Success depends on challenging state legislatures.	Has strong bipartisan support. Counter to Republican voucher proposals and Coverdell Amendment. Some in education organizations and minority community are wary or opposed.	Significant

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EDUCATION STANDARDS: Talented and Dedicated Teachers	Recruit and prepare 10% of the new teachers needed in high poverty urban and rural schools.	Legislation by end of 1998. Program: 5 years	Bring outstanding new teachers (including minorities) into schools with the greatest need; provide mentorship to new teachers. Provide models and support for improvements in higher education to strengthen teacher preparation.	*New legislation and budget authority required. \$350 million over five years to support proposed Title V of Higher Education Act for teacher recruitment and strengthening teacher preparation.	Has bipartisan elements; recruitment initiative has strong appeal to urban constituency.	Significant
	Enable 100,000 teachers to seek national certification as master teachers.	9 years	Enable every school to have at least one master teacher who can help lead improvements in the school and support teacher development.	\$105 million over five years in the balanced budget to develop content area assessments and provide access to certification process for 100,000 teachers.		Limited
	Increase the number of states/districts with programs to remove incompetent teachers.	Host roundtable discussion on effective local efforts in Fall 1997.	Facilitate the removal of incompetent teachers from the classroom and increase public confidence in public schools.	No cost	Strong public support for getting tough on incompetent teachers and increasing support from teacher organizations.	Limited

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EDUCATION STANDARDS: America Reads: Tutoring for students who are behind, and related efforts	Launch national campaign to ensure that all children can read well and independently by age 8. After school tutors are a primary component; Congress is also pressing for a teacher re-training effort.	Major launch for summer 1998. Negotiation next month over appropriations details are critical.	Helps children in communities with low reading levels, especially low income children.	Education Dept. Funds for 1998 included in Budget Agreement, although appropriators are balking. Needed increase for National Service is much more difficult to achieve.	Strong positive public reaction. However, support in Congress and from constituency groups is sparse.	Significant
After School Learning Centers / Community Schools	Expand schools' capacity to address education needs by creating 500-1000 new after-school programs.	1-2 years	Increases safety and reduces risk -- youth are most at risk of committing violence or being victims between 3 and 6 p.m. Provides students with safe neighborhood learning centers to do homework and obtain tutoring and mentoring. Provides parents with safe, educational programs for children during working hours.	*In current budget \$50 million requested in FY 1998 budget; House committee appropriated \$50 million but only \$1 million in the Senate.	Some bipartisan support. Public identifies this as key unaddressed education and childcare need.	Limited
School-to-Work	All 50 states creating comprehensive school-to-career systems.	Ongoing	Provides more than half a million high school students with opportunities for work-based learning connected to high standards, preparing them for careers and further learning.	*In current budget State systems encouraged and supported by School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994; \$400 million requested for FY 98.	Bipartisan support, including business community; currently under attack by far-right groups.	Limited

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Safe and Drug-Free Schools	Added school safety as a focus of the federal investment in 1993 and later successfully fought to increase funding despite GOP threats to cut.	Ongoing	Allows schools to use funds for security improvements and violence prevention. Provided increase in funds for prevention programs at a time when adolescent drug use increasing.	*In current budget \$620 million requested in FY 1998.	Strong public support for President's effort to preserve funding for program.	Limited
	As part of new initiative, ensure that federal funds support state and school district investments in effective safety and substance abuse prevention efforts.	Ongoing	Focus funds on the most effective interventions, increasing the number of kids free from violence and drugs. Will provide more models of programs that work for kids.	Department of Education reviewing options for overhauling existing program.	Efforts to improve program would address criticism that it doesn't work, but Congress could treat as excuse to attack Administration programs and efforts.	
	Established zero tolerance policy for guns in schools requiring a one-year mandatory expulsion for kids who bring guns to schools.	Ongoing	In some 6,000 cases, the student population was protected by removing students who brought guns to school.		Local districts likely to resist changes requiring more competition for funds or greater emphasis on results.	

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School Construction	Provide up to 50% interest subsidy for new school construction and renovation.	4 years	Increase the amount of school construction by 25%. Target subsidy to urban and high-poverty districts that have the most significant needs. One-third of all schools facing extensive repair or replacement. New schools needed to address overcrowding caused by record enrollments.	* New budget item \$5 billion grant program -- part of the funds awarded by competition for local school districts and the other part by formula to states. State grants do ensure that rural and suburban schools will also receive interest subsidies. Record enrollment this fall ensure that overcrowding will continue to be an issue of great concern.	Strongly supported by urban constituencies. Growing public recognition of problem, and some potential for bipartisan support, although many Republicans vocally oppose. Description of initiative is based on legislation introduced last term, other policy options should be considered in order to increase chances for enactment.	Limited
College Access and Enrollment	** TO BE PROVIDED BY NEC					
Education Technology	** TO BE PROVIDED BY NEC					

SAMPLE

EDUCATION PILLAR

BUILDING BLOCKS OF PILLAR	DESCRIPTION	TIMELINE	BENEFITS (e.g. Who does this help? How does it help them?)	COSTS/FEASIBILITY (e.g. What does it take to achieve? Who pays (\$ or capital)? What is the likelihood it will occur?)	POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS (e.g. How does it affect the party?)
Educational Standards	Ensure that <u>X</u> of states sign on to standards for 4th and 8th grades thereby establishing a goal for students to reach. Ensure that schools and their teachers adequately prepare our children.	<u>X</u> months / years	Results in better educated students in public schools (as long as "failure" group does not develop). Results in measurement of school performance. Mainly helps students in <u>X</u> situation. There are <u>Y</u> students in that situation.	May entail high costs to organize efforts in each state where there are differing power centers / dynamics. Will require work to ensure that it is not used as a tool against minorities.	Has strong bi-partisan element. Sometimes results in alienation of minority community and may cause dissension within that area of the party.
Guarantee Two Years of Higher Education (Chaka Fattah Plan: 21st Century Scholars Act)	Guarantee Pell Grants to sixth-grade students from low income families.	<u>X</u> months / years	Increases college participation rates for this group, and broadly instills expectation of college attendance among lower-income students. 700,000 students available for benefit in first class. Promotes high school completion, job readiness and lower incidence of delinquent behavior.	\$2.5 billion for first group of sixth-grade students. May create a new entitlement and will cost shift in budget priorities from one program to this one. May guarantee help to many non-needy students. Does not provide additional support like mentoring, tutoring and other support services that are critical for success.	Has bi-partisan support.
Additional building blocks to be added here.			<i>What's what</i>		

*Note that this example has both an old initiative that we are still developing and a new idea. Please include both in your input.

*This template will be provided to you for incorporation of your own input.

TEMPLATE

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