

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION AGENDA: HELPING STUDENTS REACH HIGH STANDARDS

[T]he struggle for excellence for all must be our great mission. We must demand high standards of every student; our schools and teachers must meet world-class standards. But we must demand that every child be given the opportunity to meet those standards. Every child must have a chance to succeed in this new economy.

President Clinton, Speech to the NAACP National Convention,
July 17, 1997

High Expectations for All Students and Resources to Help Them Learn

A hallmark of President Clinton's efforts to improve American education has been that we should have high expectations for every student. He has urged states and school districts to adopt challenging academic standards in all core subjects, and to adopt high national standards in the basics of reading and mathematics. The President has strengthened existing federal programs and fought for new resources to improve local schools and help students reach these standards. President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in our investment in education in 30 years and the largest single boost in college aid since the G.I. Bill. But we still have much to do in order to meet the President's goal of insuring that all Americans have the best education in the world.

Strengthening Existing Programs

- **Expanding Head Start to Reach 1 Million Children a Year.** President Clinton has made Head Start an Administration priority. For over 30 years, Head Start has helped low-income families create an environment where their children are ready to learn by taking a comprehensive approach to child development - improving children's learning skills, health, nutrition, and social competency. The Appropriations Act signed by the President provides nearly \$4.4 billion for Head Start, keeping on track to meet the President's goal of serving one million children. With this \$374 million increase, Head Start funding will have increased 57% since 1993. The program will serve an estimated 836,000 children in 1998..
- **Raising Standards for Over Ten Million Low Income Students.** The Clinton Administration's Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 overhauled Title I, which provides extra help with basic and advanced skills to disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools. As a result of this Act, states now hold more than ten million low income students to the same high standards set for all other students in the state, and hold schools accountable for the results. The new law also provides funds for teacher training, and strengthened requirements for parental involvement. The FY 98 Appropriations Act signed by the President provides nearly \$7.4 billion in Title I to support extra help in basic and advanced skills for more than ten million disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools. Under the Clinton Administration, investment in Title I has grown by over \$ 1 billion.
- **Making Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug Free.** The Clinton Administration passed the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and successfully fought Republican efforts to cut this program, which supports school security, drug prevention and education programs.

- **Expanding Opportunity for Disabled Children.** President Clinton signed legislation reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strengthening and reaffirming our nation's 20-year commitment to disabled children and their parents. The Appropriations Act signed by the President provides \$3.8 billion for Special Education Grants to States, an increase of \$700 million.
- **Bilingual and Immigrant Education.** The FY 98 Appropriations Act includes a 35% *increase* in bilingual and immigrant education secured by the President in the Balanced Budget Agreement. The bilingual education funding will help school districts teach English to more than a million limited English proficient children, as well as provide some 4,000 teachers with the training they need to do their jobs better. The Immigrant Education program will help more than a thousand school districts provide supplemental instructional services to 875,000 recent immigrant students.

New Initiatives Already Working to Strengthen Local Schools

- **America Reads.** The bill provides nearly \$300 million in new funding towards the President's comprehensive strategy for involving teachers, families and communities in ensuring that all children learn to read well and independently by the end of third grade. These resources will be used to build on current AmeriCorps and college work-study tutoring efforts (more than 800 colleges have already committed to use Federal work-study slots for reading tutors).
- **Goals 2000.** Goals 2000, President Clinton's education reform initiative enacted in 1994, helps States establish standards of excellence for all children, and plan and implement steps to raise achievement. Communities in every state are using Goals 2000 funds to upgrade curriculum, improve teaching, increase parental involvement in schools, and make greater use of computers in the classroom. The FY 98 Appropriations Act provides \$491 million for this program. Since 1994, over \$1.3 billion has been invested in this vital initiative.
- **Strengthening the Skills of Classroom Teachers.** Under the Clinton Administration, funding for the Eisenhower Professional Development has increased by over 25%, strengthening the ability of teachers to improve their teaching skills in math, science and other core subjects. In addition, the FY 98 Appropriations Act provides \$18.5 million in support of the President's plan to help 100,000 teachers nationwide -- at least one for every school -- seek certification as Master Teachers by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- **Expanding school choice and accountability in public education.** The President has challenged every state to let parents choose the right public school for their children. The Clinton Administration is helping teachers, parents and community groups start charter schools -- innovative public schools that stay open only as long as they produce results and meet the highest standards. In the FY 98 Appropriations Act, the Public Charter Schools Program received a 57 percent *increase*, from \$51 million to \$80 million. This program provides start-up funding for public schools that parents, teachers, and communities create -- and that States free from most rules and regulations while holding them accountable for

raising student achievement. By the end of next year, the Department of Education will be funding nearly 1,000 locally-designed charter schools, accelerating progress toward the President's goal of developing 3,000 new charter schools by early in the next century.

- **Expanding Access to Educational Technology**

Bringing Computers to the Classroom. The President's 1997 Budget Agreement with Congress doubles the funding for America's Technology Literacy Challenge, catalyzing private-public sector partnerships to put the information age at our children's fingertips. The President is committed to helping communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century. For 1998, the Appropriations Act provides \$425 million, more than twice as much as the \$200 million appropriated last year.

Linking Schools and Libraries to the Internet. The Clinton Administration is implementing a plan to create an "E-Rate," provided for in the Telecommunications Act, a discounted education rate for telecommunications services so schools and libraries will be able to bring technology into the classroom, set up phone lines and access the Internet at a fraction of the cost. The FCC has already approved a plan to make discounts worth \$2.25 billion annually available to our schools and libraries, with low-income schools eligible for discounts of up to 90%.

- **Expanding School-To-Work.** The Clinton Administration is providing hundreds of thousands of students with school-to-career opportunities, where they experience work-based learning and gain access to pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. In 1994 and 1995, over 500,000 young people in 1,800 schools throughout the nation, as well as 135,000 employers, participated in school-to-work systems that integrate academic and vocational instruction and provide work-based learning.
- **Creating after-school safe havens in communities across the country.** The Appropriations Act signed by the President provides \$40 million to support hundreds of after-school centers in rural and urban schools across the country that will provide academic enrichment, tutoring, and other learning opportunities while giving students a safe haven during the often-dangerous after-school hours.

New Proposals to Improve Student Learning

- **Attracting and Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers.** President Clinton has proposed a 5-year initiative to attract nearly 35,000 talented people of all backgrounds into teaching at low-income urban and rural schools across the nation, and to dramatically improve the quality of training and preparation given to future teachers. The President's initiative will help recruit and prepare teachers nationwide to help our neediest students succeed in the 21st century.
- **School Construction.** The Administration will continue its push to help address the serious need for renovating and building schools nationwide.

Widening Access to College and Lifelong Learning

- **The largest Pell Grant increase in 20 years.** President Clinton increased Pell Grants from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997. These grants provide a total of 3.7 million low-income students the opportunity to attend college. And for FY 1998, Congress adopted President Clinton's proposal to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$3,000 -- *the largest increase in two decades*. Approximately 3.7 million students will receive this year's \$300 increase, and an additional 220,000 low- and moderate-income families that were not previously eligible will receive Pell Grants.
- **Higher education tax cuts.** The balanced budget agreement calls for roughly \$35 billion in tax cuts to help families pay for college. Congress has enacted the President's \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit, to make the first two years of college universally available. Students beyond the first two years, or part-time students seeking to improve or acquire job skills, can now receive a 20% lifelong learning tax credit for up to \$5,000 of tuition and required fees through 2002, and \$10,000 thereafter.
- **Expanding Educational Opportunity Through Service.** The Clinton Administration has enabled 70,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program since the inception of the program.

The First Year Of President Clinton's Second Term:

A Strong Record Of Accomplishment

Friday, November 14, 1997

"Tonight I issue a call to action--action by this Congress, by our states, by all our people, to prepare America for the 21st century."

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BALANCED BUDGET & TAX CUTS:

- ✓ **First Balanced Budget In A Generation**
- ✓ **Middle Class Tax Cut For 27 Million Families With Children**

EDUCATION:

- ✓ **Largest Investment In Education In 30 Years**
- ✓ **HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma**
- ✓ **20% Tuition Tax Credit Worth Up To \$10,000 For College Or Lifetime Learning**
- ✓ **Largest Increase In Pell Grants In 20 Years**
- ✓ **America Reads Initiative To Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade**
- ✓ **On Track For First-Ever National Test Of 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math**
- ✓ **57% Increase For Public Charter Schools**
- ✓ **Head Start Expanded Toward Goal Of 1 Million Children By 2002**

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **Single Largest Investment In Children's Health Care Since 1965**
- ✓ **Medicare Protected, Modernized And Trust Fund Extended At Least A Decade**

ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **Toughest New Air Quality Standards In A Generation**
- ✓ **Developed A Bold, Market Based National Strategy To Reduce Greenhouse Gases**

WELFARE:

- ✓ **Restored Basic Health And Disability Benefits To Legal, Law-Abiding Immigrants**
- ✓ **New Incentives And Community Efforts To Move 2 Million More People Off Welfare**

URBAN AGENDA:

- ✓ **Tripled The Number Of Empowerment Zones**
- ✓ **63% Expansion Of Community Development Banks**
- ✓ **Brownfields Tax Incentive Will Redevelop 14,000 Contaminated Sites**

FOREIGN POLICY:

- ✓ **Ratified The Chemical Weapons Convention**
- ✓ **Secured Passage Of China MFN, Hosted First US--Sino Summit In 8 Years**
- ✓ **NATO Expansion**

WHERE WE CAME UP SHORT:

- ☐ **Renewal Of Fast Track Authority**
- ☐ **Passage Of Campaign Finance Reform**
- ☐ **Enactment Of The Juvenile Justice Proposal**
- ☐ **Enactment Of School Construction Proposal**

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BALANCED BUDGET & TAX CUTS:

- ✓ **First Balanced Budget In A Generation:** After cutting the deficit by 63 percent in his first term, from \$290 billion to \$107 billion, President Clinton promised in his 1997 State of the Union speech to *"propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002."* On August 5, 1997, the President signed an historic, bipartisan bill to balance the budget for the first time since 1969.
- ✓ **Middle Class Tax Cuts For 27 Million Families With Children:** In addition to balancing the budget, President Clinton promised in his State of the Union to *"provide middle class tax relief...to help raise a child."* On August 5, 1997, the President signed into law a \$500 per-child tax credit that will benefit approximately 27 million families with 45 million children under 17. For the typical family with two kids, this child tax credit will mean \$1,000 more per year in take-home pay.

EDUCATION:

- ✓ **Largest Investment In Education In 30 Years:** In his February State of the Union, the President said his *"number one priority"* was to ensure that *"all Americans have the best education in the world."* The President said his balanced budget would reflect this commitment. Now, that commitment is the law. The bipartisan Balanced Budget Act includes the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill.
- ✓ **HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma:** In his February 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called for passage of his America's HOPE Scholarship proposal in order to *"make the 13th and 14th years of education...just as universal in America by the 21st century as a high school education is today."* Today, the HOPE Scholarship is law, providing a 100 percent tax credit on the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent on the second \$1,000 -- enough to pay for the typical community college.
- ✓ **20% Tuition Tax Credit for College Juniors, Seniors, Graduate Students And Working Americans Pursuing Lifelong Learning To Upgrade Their Skills:** The President's State of the Union address included a proposed *"tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year"* for post high school tuition. The President's proposal is now law. The 20 percent tuition tax credit will be applied to the first \$5,000 of qualified education expenses through 2002, and to the first \$10,000 thereafter.
- ✓ **Largest Increase In Pell Grants In 20 Years:** President Clinton pledged during the State of the Union that his balanced budget would include *"the largest increase in Pell Grant Scholarship in 20 years."* Now, that commitment is the law. On November 13, 1997, the President signed the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill which included his proposal to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$3,000 -- the largest increase in two decades. Approximately 3.7 million students will receive the \$300 increase, and an additional 220,000 low- and moderate-income families that were not previously eligible will receive Pell Grants.

- ✓ **America Reads Initiative To Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade:** Noting that *"we must do more to help all our children read"* during his 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called on Congress to pass his America Reads Initiative. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, included nearly \$300 million in new funding towards the President's comprehensive literacy strategy. As a result: 3000 new Americorps members and thousands of senior volunteers will recruit more than 100,000 volunteer reading tutors; state teacher training and family literacy efforts receive an additional \$41 million; and an advance appropriation of \$210 million is provided for pending legislation based on the President's America Reads Initiative.

In addition, more than 800 colleges have answered the President's State of the Union call, pledging to have thousands of their work-study students *"serve for one year as reading tutors."*

- ✓ **On Track For First-Ever National Test Of 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math:** President Clinton issued a "challenge to the nation" during his State of the Union speech, calling on every state to *"adopt high national standards"* and *"test every fourth grader in reading and every eighth grader in math to make sure these standards are met."* The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, fully funds (\$16 million) the Administration's voluntary national testing program and allows for development and pilot testing of the first-ever national 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests.
- ✓ **57% Increase For Public Charter Schools:** Continuing his lifelong commitment to improving and reforming America's public schools, President Clinton called for a dramatic increase in the number of public charter schools in his 1997 State of the Union *"so that parents will have even more choices in sending their children to the best schools."* The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997, increases funding for charter schools by 57 percent, from \$51 million to \$80 million. And while there was only one charter school in the nation when President Clinton took office, there will be nearly 1,000 locally-designed charter schools supported by the Department of Education by the end of 1998 -- accelerating progress towards the President's goal of 3,000 by early next century.
- ✓ **Head Start Expanded Toward Goal Of 1 Million Children By 2002:** Stating that *"we already know we should start teaching children before they start school,"* President Clinton proposed a balanced budget that *"expands Head Start to one million children by 2002"* in his 1997 State of the Union address. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 includes \$4.4 billion for Head Start, a \$374 million increase -- and a 57 percent increase since 1993. Head Start will serve 836,000 children and their families in 1998 and is on track meeting the President's goal of reaching one million by 2002.

HEALTH CARE:

- ✓ **Single Largest Investment In Children's Health Care Since 1965:** President Clinton pledged in his 1997 State of the Union that his balanced budget would *"extend health coverage to up to five million...children."* Now, that commitment is law. The Balanced Budget that President Clinton signed into law on August 5, 1997 included \$24 billion for the President's Children's Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since passage of Medicaid in 1965. The \$24 billion will provide meaningful health care coverage to up to five million currently uninsured children -- including prescription drugs, vision, hearing, and mental health services.

- ✓ **Medicare Protected, Modernized And Trust Fund Extended At Least A Decade:** President Clinton promised during his 1997 State of the Union that his balanced budget plan would modernize Medicare and increase the life of the Medicare Trust Fund to ten years. These promises are now law. The bipartisan Balanced Budget extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund at least a decade -- saving \$115 billion over five years and \$400-\$450 billion over ten years. The President fought to prevent any damaging changes that would have undermined Medicare, and instead worked to enact structural reforms to prepare it for the 21st century. These reforms included more choices among health care plans, changes to the annual Medigap enrollment and restructuring specific payment systems so that rates are set in advance. Also included is \$4 billion over five years for new Medicare preventive benefits -- expanded coverage for mammograms, colorectal screening, and improved self management of diseases like diabetes.

ENVIRONMENT:

- ✓ **Toughest New Air Quality Standards In A Generation:** The President pledged to "*protect our environment in every community*" in his State of the Union address. This year, at the President's direction, the Environmental Protection Agency set new air quality standards for smog and soot, the toughest in a generation, providing new health protections for 125 million Americans, including children and the elderly. EPA will work with state and local governments to assure maximum flexibility in implementing the new rules.
- ✓ **Developed A Bold, Market Based National Strategy To Reduce Greenhouse Gases:** President Clinton pledged in the 1997 State of the Union to "*protect our global environment*" and "*work to reduce the greenhouse gases.*" Based on a firm scientific consensus, and after extensive consultation with industry, environmentalists, labor and the public, the President outlined a bold strategy in October to achieve international agreement to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The President's plan calls for flexible, market-based approaches to assure the reductions can be achieved in a way that creates new economic opportunities.

WELFARE:

- ✓ **Restored Basic Health And Disability Benefits To Legal, Law-Abiding Immigrants:** When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, *he pledged to go back and change provisions he opposed regarding the cutting off of benefits to legal, law abiding immigrants.* Critics said the changes would never be made. However, in 1997, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won most of the changes he sought in the 1996 law. The President fought for and won \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. He won changes that protect those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And immigrants in this country as of August 22, 1996 but not receiving benefits who subsequently become disabled will be eligible for SSI and Medicaid.
- ✓ **New Incentives And Community Efforts To Move 2 Million More People Off Welfare:** During his first term, President Clinton's lifetime of experience and innovative approach to welfare reform lead to the largest decline in welfare rolls in history. In his 1997 State of the Union, the President set out a plan including government incentives and private sector challenges to reach another goal: "*two million more people off the welfare rolls by the year 2000.*"

Expanded Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Created the \$3 Billion Welfare To Work Job

Challenge Fund: The Balanced Budget Law includes a tax credit for employers who hire long-term welfare recipients equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in the second year to encourage retention. The President also succeeded in including \$3 billion to create his Welfare to Work Job Challenge Fund -- to assist states and communities in moving long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs.

Challenging Communities to Move People from Welfare to Work: The President challenged “every religious congregation, every community nonprofit, every business to hire someone off welfare.” Responding to the President’s challenge, the *Welfare to Work Partnership* was launched to lead a private sector effort to move people from welfare to work. Begun with 100 businesses, the Partnership is aiming for 1,000 businesses within six months. Vice President Gore also reached out, creating the *Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success* -- a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed.

URBAN AGENDA:

- ✓ **Tripled The Number Of Empowerment Zones:** *President Clinton called for doubling the number of empowerment zones and enterprise communities in his 1998 budget.* The Balanced Budget Law the President Clinton signed actually triples the number of EZs, adding 20 new EZs (15 urban and 5 rural second round zones and 2 more first-round zones) -- bringing the total number created to 31.
- ✓ **63% Expansion of Community Development Banks:** *President Clinton called for an expansion of Community Development Banks in his State of the Union speech.* The Balanced Budget Law the President signed in August included \$80 million for Community Development Financial Institutions in FY 1998 -- a 63% increase over FY 1997. These entities make investment capital and other financial products and services available in low- and moderate-income communities.
- ✓ **Brownfields Tax Incentive Will Redevelop 14,000 Contaminated Sites:** The President called for restoring “*contaminated urban land and buildings to constructive use*” through his Brownfields tax incentive program. Brownfields were part of the Balanced Budget Law the President signed. The tax incentives will leverage more than \$6 billion for private sector cleanups nationwide according to the Treasury Department -- and allow for the redevelopment of 14,000 contaminated, abandoned sites in economically distressed urban areas.

FOREIGN POLICY:

- ✓ **Ratification Of The Chemical Weapons Convention:** President Clinton challenged Congress during his State of the Union speech to “*rise to a new test of leadership*” and “*pass the Chemical Weapons Convention.*” And after an intense lobbying effort by the President, the Senate ratified the Convention on April 24, 1997.
- ✓ **Secured Passage Of China MFN, Hosted First US--Sino Summit In 8 Years:** President Clinton challenged the country to “*pursue a deeper dialogue with China for the sake of our interests and our ideals.*” The President successfully lobbied Congress to extend normal trading relations with China on June 24, 1997. And the first U.S.-- Sino State Visit in eight years, hosted by President Clinton at the White House in October, resulted in agreements on a broad range of security, economic, environmental and law enforcement issues.
- ✓ **NATO Expansion:** President Clinton called for expanding NATO membership by 1999 “*so that countries that were once our adversaries can become our allies.*” On July 8, 1997, at the Madrid NATO Summit, three nations -- Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary -- were offered membership in NATO. President Clinton has pledged to lobby the Senate to ratify these changes “*so that we can bring in the new members by the 50th anniversary of NATO in 1999.*”

WHERE WE CAME UP SHORT:

- **Renewal Of Fast Track Authority:** President Clinton's lobbying efforts on behalf of renewed "fast track" trade authority resulted in majority support in the United States Senate. A clear majority of Democratic governors and mayors supported the President's position. In the House of Representatives, however, the vote had to be postponed when it became clear that opposition by Democratic lawmakers -- and the linking of the trade vote to international family planning by House Republicans -- would derail the legislation.
- **Passage Of Campaign Finance Reform:** Despite intense lobbying efforts by President Clinton, Republican Congressional leaders killed the McCain-Feingold/Meehan-Shays campaign finance reform legislation this year. Campaign finance reform enjoyed universal Democratic support in the Senate and strong Democratic support in the House. The President continues to support passage of the bill and is encouraged that Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle was able to extract a pledge from Majority Leader Trent Lott to have a clean up-or-down vote on the measure before March 6, 1998. Speaker Gingrich has also promised to hold a March campaign finance reform vote.
- **Enactment Of The Juvenile Justice Proposal:** The President's Juvenile Justice legislation did not get far on Capitol Hill this year. However, the President used his executive power to make progress on some of the central initiatives in his legislation. For example, the President's legislation called for handguns to be sold with a child safety lock. President Clinton signed a directive to all Federal agencies requiring child safety locks be issued with every handgun. And the Administration reached an agreement with 8 major handgun manufacturers who agreed to provide child safety locks with each handgun sold.
- **Enactment Of School Construction Proposal:** President Clinton proposed an initiative to invest \$5 billion over four years to finance \$20 billion in school construction projects. The initiative was not included in the Balanced Budget the President signed.

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May 19, 1997

The wee reform

Is Clinton's education plan a big waste of money?

BY NICHOLAS LEMANN AND JOSHUA WOLF SHENK

The recently negotiated budget deal, President Clinton proudly declared, "meets my goal of making education America's No. 1 priority." At Clinton's insistence, the deal would add \$7 billion in education spending next year alone—the largest increase in three decades.

Congress and the White House will continue to haggle over the details of education policy—not just Clinton's higher education tax breaks but the second leg of his agenda as well: a national effort to increase standards in K-12 schools. But Clinton is likely to win approval of most, if not all, of what he wants.

So now is the time to ask: What is it going to get us? The answer is, a very inefficient use of a colossal sum of money. The chance that the Clinton program will significantly improve either access to, or the quality of, American education is small, mostly because of two crippling tendencies in education policy: designing programs on the basis of poll results, and being afraid to challenge the traditional localism of public schools.

Countering Dole, Clinton's college aid plan has three overlapping parts. First, he would increase by \$300 per person the award for Pell grants, the main existing grant program for the poor. That would increase the maximum grant to \$3,000 for the poorest families.

But Clinton puts most of his money, about \$35 billion over five years, into two tax breaks geared toward families that are better off. The Hope Scholarship is a \$1,500 tax credit (that's a dollar-for-dollar reduction on your tax bill). The

\$1,500 figure was pegged to the average community college tuition, which lets the president boast of making the 13th and 14th years of school as free as public high school. Alternatively, families can choose a tax deduction (that's a reduction of taxable income, not tax payment) of up to \$10,000 in tuition for up to four years.

Americans who have the hardest time affording college won't be much better off under this plan. Pell grant recipients

are disqualified from benefiting from the tax credit; every dollar in Pell money—or other federal aid—is subtracted from tax credit money. And many families that are too "well-off" to qualify for Pell money still don't earn enough to pay much in taxes. In the absence of a tax bill, a nonrefundable tax credit doesn't do you much good.

Despite the White House rhetoric, then, enrollment in two-year colleges isn't likely to bulge. "We do not believe the increase will be overwhelming," says David Pierce, president of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Upper-middle-income families, by contrast, will get a windfall. Say the Schmeltzer family earns \$40,000 a year and has one child in a community college, with a tuition of \$1,000. Taking into account their federal financial aid and total tax bill, they'd get only \$50 in new benefits from the Hope Scholarship. But the Millers, who earn \$80,000 and pay tuition of \$10,000 at a more expensive school, would save roughly \$2,800.

This disparity shouldn't come as a surprise, given the origins of the proposal. It was hatched by consultant Dick Morris during the presidential campaign as a tax break for the middle class designed to counter Bob Dole's tax cut plan—not as a way to expand access to college.

But even the middle class—those making between \$40,000 and \$100,000—won't likely see much of the tax cut billions. State governments and private colleges could soak up much of that money.

Say the Miller kid goes to Connecticut College, a private school in New London, Conn., with a tuition of \$27,375. Despite its substantial income, the family will still probably qualify for financial aid. According to the school's financial aid office, if the family has more money because of a tax break, Connecticut College's grant aid to the family will likely go down by about the same amount. The Millers are no better off.

In the case of public colleges, state legislatures may increase tuition to take advantage of greater family resources. "Schools and states are likely to absorb much of the benefit of the tax cuts themselves," conclude Michael McPherson and Morton Schapiro in a forthcoming book, *The Student Aid Game*. The administration counters that competitive pressure and a cost-conscious public will keep tuition down.

Whale-watching. Even if that positive assessment turns out to be true, there are other problems. Schools may spring up to offer courses that are "consumption oriented" rather than "productivity oriented," says Thomas Kane, an economist at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "You may see a lot of institutions creating whale-watching courses, where they charge you \$1,500 and credit you with marine biology," Kane says.

The most serious criticism of the Clinton plan is that it could actually worsen higher education. The president "takes the moral high ground that every 18-year-old must be able to go to college," California Gov. Pete Wilson said last month. "This may sound noble, but it's exactly what plagues our colleges." Many college students, in other words, are already terribly underprepared—some 30 percent have to take remedial classes. Is this the time to be putting more people in college?

Marc Tucker, president of the National Center for Education and the Economy, tells a sobering story about a community college in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Of the programs that led to the best-paying careers, "one was the welding program that they had just shut down," Tucker recalls. "The others—civil engineering, software programming, and systems analysis—were about to be shut down. In all four cases, the reason is that the kids couldn't do the work. Their basic skills in English and math weren't sufficient."

The price of their failure is high. Possibly the most dramatic statistical

change in America over the past two decades has been the increase in the financial return from a college degree. In 1993, the average male college graduate's income was 89 percent higher than the average male high school graduate's; the gap between them is twice what it was in the late 1970s because the economy became more focused on information-driven industries.

As college degrees pay off more, the likelihood of getting one has gotten more closely tied to parental income. So expanding access to college is still important. But that may not do much good without concurrent improvements in primary and secondary schools. Clinton would encourage schools to use two national tests—a reading test for fourth graders and a math test for eighth graders. But the program would be entirely voluntary. The White House plans to jawbone the governors into requiring the tests in their states; so far only the governors of Michigan, North Carolina, and Maryland have agreed.

National tests would eliminate the problem of holding students in different states to different standards. For instance, Georgia's math tests in 1994-95 found 83 percent of eighth graders proficient. In 1996, the considerably tougher National Assessment of Educational Progress found only 16 percent of them met that standard.

For the national tests to make a real difference, however, three unlikely things would have to happen. First, the tests would have to catch on all over the country. Second, parents who were shocked by the lower scores in the tougher, national tests would have to demand better performance from their schools. Third, the schools would have to

respond by actually improving instruction.

If all three of these things happened, an inevitable fourth step would follow. The schools would "teach to the test." The customary way to raise scores on tests that are largely multiple choice is to put students through a daily drill of filling out work sheets that emulate test content. This, in turn, tends to shift the emphasis of instruction from "progressive" (stressing understanding and discussion) to "traditional" (focusing on facts and memorization). Clinton's program, in the best-case scenario, will represent a victory for the traditionalists.

Raising standards in the public schools has been a national cause at least since 1983, when a federal report, "A Nation at Risk," sounded alarm bells about schools. President Bush proposed national standards and tests, an effort with which then-Governor Clinton was closely involved.

There is something fundamentally weird about American politicians taking such minor steps to solve problems they describe in extreme rhetoric. A European or Asian prime minister who was concerned about educational standards would simply order the minister of education to impose a tough new curriculum on all the public schools. But in the United States, public education is radically decentralized, controlled by local school boards and funded through local property taxes. In most of the advanced world, curricula and teacher salaries are determined nationally; here, the president has almost no statutory power over public schools, despite their obvious vital functions.

Standardized testing is one of the few ways for the national government to have

an impact on local schools, but politics places sharp limits here. Presidential advisers have urged Clinton to require national tests, and Clinton is said to have liked the idea in theory, but he realized the obvious: To do so would leave himself open to charges—some reasoned, some prejudiced—of federal intrusion into local affairs.

There are other dramatic ways the federal government could help local schools. For the money Clinton has proposed for tuition tax breaks, for example, he could have slashed class size in inner-city schools. However, even a modest sum Clinton proposed to fix up dilapidated school buildings was dropped from the budget during negotiations.

Instead of directing energy into the elementary and secondary system, the federal government has expanded the higher education system. Colleges, partly because they are heavily federally funded, are more susceptible to national quality control. And increasing access to higher education is much easier than increasing the quality of elementary and secondary education.

As completely outside the range of viable options as it is, the best way to raise educational standards for everybody would be to establish more national control over public schools, probably by devising a national curriculum. Then, tests would measure actual learning rather than aptitude—and all kids could be held to the same high standard. Clinton's test proposal is a feint, and no more, in that direction. To go further would require a political battle that no president—even those who have made education the No. 1 priority—has yet had the nerve to take on. ■

99. The Seattle Times

05/10/97; Edition: FINAL; Section: EDITORIAL; Page A9

SCHOOL BOARD'S SMART TO OPEN BOOK DEBATE

WAIT a minute.

That was the wise and responsible message from the Seattle School Board when it decided this week to reexamine the district's scheduled purchase of elementary-school books dealing with gay and lesbian families.

The conservative Washington Family Council first raised concern about the

\$6,150 grant last month. The group believes the books - including "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "Daddy's Wedding" - inappropriately promote alternative lifestyles.

But this isn't simply a controversy about family values and how to define families. It's about the school district's commitment to an open process.

An organization called the Sexual-Minority Advocacy Council last fall applied for and won a grant from the Seattle-based Pride Foundation. The group used promotional literature with the school district's logo and a picture of superintendent John Stanford. The council devised and distributed a bibliography of 28 books that would be

Accomplishments/Pell

S. A. Noe

09/29/97 04:27:23 PM

Record Type: Record

To: William R. Kincaid/OPD/EOP

cc: Wayne Upshaw/OMB/EOP, Robert M. Shireman/OPD/EOP

Subject: Fact Checking -- from DPC

A couple of comments:

- 2nd sentence: What is meant by "this year"? In fiscal year 1997 (academic year 1997-98), the Pell grant program would serve about 3.7 million low-income college students. You may want to specify the year (1997?). Please note that the beneficiary estimates change from time to time.
- For FY 1998, the President's proposal would help over four million students, 348,000 more students than in 1997. Your breakdown below is correct.

I do not know what this document is for, so I am hesitant to change your text. But you might want to consider to incorporate below:

- For FY1998, the President proposes increasing a maximum award to \$3,000 and expanding the eligibility of low-income students (generally age 24 or older) who are financially independent from their parents. Raising the maximum award to \$3,000 provides more aid to currently eligible students and makes an additional 130,000 students eligible for the grants; and the eligibility expansion proposal would bring 218,000 students into the program who are currently not eligible.
- Depending on your purpose, I guess you can compare with the FY 1993 or FY 1994 budget. Since President Clinton took office in January 1993, the FY 1993 budget was not his, but FY 1994 budget is his.

YOUR TEXT: President Clinton has already increased Pell Grants from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997. These grants will provide a total of 3.8 million low-income students the opportunity to attend college this year. [Source: Department of Education (Memo to President, 12/6/96)] And he plans to do more. The President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in Pell Grants in two decades -- a funding boost of 25%. The maximum award will reach \$3,000, \$700 more than in 1993. In the 1998 budget alone, an additional 348,000 students will receive grants: 130,000 young people from moderate income families, and 218,000 low

income students over the age of 24. [Source: Budget Agreement – National Economic Council]

----- Forwarded by S. A. Noe/OMB/EOP on 09/29/97 04:02 PM



Mary I. Cassell

09/29/97 03:55:23 PM

Record Type: Record

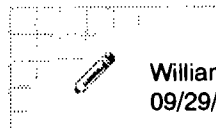
To: Jennifer Friedman/OMB/EOP, S. A. Noe/OMB/EOP

cc: Wayne Upshaw/OMB/EOP

Subject: Fact Checking -- from DPC

Bill Kincaid sent the following request -- I'm just forwarding it to you guys who know about Head Start and Pell...

----- Forwarded by Mary I. Cassell/OMB/EOP on 09/29/97 03:52 PM



William R. Kincaid
09/29/97 03:47:10 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Robert M. Shireman/OPD/EOP, Wayne Upshaw/OMB/EOP, Mary I. Cassell/OMB/EOP, Kathryn B. Stack/OMB/EOP

cc: Neera Tanden/WHO/EOP

Subject: Fact Checking

On a couple of education accomplishments items listed below, I want to make sure that everyone is on the same page. On Head Start there was some discussion of this a couple of weeks ago, but I'm not sure if folks here ever closed the loop with HHS to make sure we there is agreement on percentage increase under this administration, and I'm not sure if folks ever took a second look at the number of beneficiaries. On Pell Grants, I want to make sure that the language is still accurate regarding the number of beneficiaries. Could folks please review by COB today?

Thanks.

Head Start:

Earlier version:

Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased 80% to \$4 billion in 1997. These additional funds have enabled Head Start to serve 180,000 more children and their families. And President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress continues expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2002. [Budget Agreement; HHS Press Release, 3/25/97]

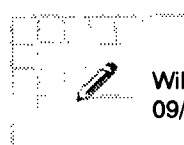
More recent version:

Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased 55%, enabling Head Start to serve 180,000 more children and their families. And President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress continues expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2002.

Pell Grants

President Clinton has already increased Pell Grants from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997. These grants will provide a total of 3.8 million low-income students the opportunity to attend college this year. [Source: Department of Education (Memo to President, 12/6/96)] And he plans to do more. The President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in Pell Grants in two decades -- a funding boost of 25%. The maximum award will reach \$3,000, \$700 more than in 1993. In the 1998 budget alone, an additional 348,000 students will receive grants: 130,000 young people from moderate income families, and 218,000 low income students over the age of 24. [Source: Budget Agreement - National Economic Council]

Accomplishments
Head Start



William R. Kincaid
09/29/97 05:37:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

CC:

Subject: Revised Head Start Blurb 

After speaking with Jennifer Friedman in OMB, who also connected with HHS, I think we should modify this paragraph to read as follows:

Expanding Head Start to Reach 1 Million Children a Year. President Clinton has made Head Start an Administration priority. For over 30 years, Head Start has helped low-income families create an environment where their children are ready to learn by taking a comprehensive approach to child development – improving children's learning skills, health, nutrition, and social competency. Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased 55%, enabling Head Start to serve 836,000 children and their families. And President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress continues expansion of Head Start toward the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2002.

Here's how it breaks down:

The earlier figure from the HHS press release was based on: FY 92 -97 -- 80% growth and 180,000 added kids

But using the last Bush budget as the baseline: FY 93 to 98 (request) -- 55% growth and 122,097 added kids

Expected growth under budget agreement is:

FY 97 + 50,000 kids
98 +36 (to 836,000 total)
99 +36 (872,000)
00 +36 (908,000)
01 +46 (954,000)
02 +46 (1 million)

Message Sent To: _____

Robert M. Shireman/OPD/EOP
Wayne Upshaw/OMB/EOP
Mary I. Cassell/OMB/EOP
Kathryn B. Stack/OMB/EOP
Neera Tanden/WHO/EOP
Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP
Jennifer Friedman/OMB/EOP

Current
Acrophobus

9/29

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PRESIDENT CLINTON: PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW CENTURY

"Looking ahead, the greatest step of all -- the high threshold of the future we now must cross -- and my number one priority for the next four years is to ensure that all Americans have the best education in the world."

President Clinton

State of the Union, February 4, 1997

A Record of Accomplishment

President Clinton has made an unprecedented commitment to education: the President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in our investment in education in 30 years and the largest single boost in college aid since the G.I. Bill.

ENSURING THAT EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA CAN LEARN

- **Raising Academic Standards**

Leading a Crusade for Voluntary National Standards and Tests in the Basic Skills. President Clinton has challenged every state to adopt high national standards, and, by 1999, to test every 4th grade student in reading and 8th grade student in math so that parents, students and teachers can tell if students are meeting national standards. These standards will help students master the basics and represent what all our children must know in order to succeed in the knowledge economy. These standards will represent what all our children must know to succeed in the knowledge economy. Fifteen of the nation's largest urban school districts, as well as six states and the Department of Defense Schools have joined the President's effort.

Goals 2000. The President's National Standards and Testing effort builds upon the success of Goals 2000, President Clinton's education reform initiative enacted in 1994, that helps States establish standards of excellence for all children, and plan and implement steps to raise educational achievement. Communities in every state receive Goals 2000 funds and are using these funds to upgrade the curriculum, improve teaching, increase parental involvement in schools, and make greater use of computers in the classroom. [A Call to Action for American Education; Goals 2000: Educate America Act, P.L. 103-227; Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998, 1997]

Raised Standards for Over Ten Million Low Income Students. The Clinton Administration's Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 overhauled Title I, which provides extra help with basic and advanced skills to disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools. As a result of this Act, states now hold low income students to the same high standards set for all other students in the state, and hold schools accountable for the results. More than ten million low income students now benefit from higher expectations and a challenging curriculum geared to higher standards. The new law also provides funds for teacher training,

strengthened requirements for parental involvement, and has reduced regulations by more than two-thirds. [Department of Education, 12/6/96, 7/8/97]

- **Attracting and Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers.** President Clinton has proposed a 5-year initiative to attract nearly 35,000 talented people of all backgrounds into teaching at low-income urban and rural schools across the nation, and to dramatically improve the quality of training and preparation given to our future teachers. The President's initiative will help recruit and prepare teachers nationwide to help our neediest students succeed in the 21st century.
- **Launched America Reads.** President Clinton launched the America Reads Challenge, a nationwide effort to mobilize a citizen army of a million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of third grade. The President's Balanced Budget includes a child literacy initiative consistent with these goals. [The 1997 Congressional Budget Resolution]
- **Expanding Head Start to Reach 1 Million Children a Year.** President Clinton has made Head Start an Administration priority. For over 30 years, Head Start has helped low-income families create an environment where their children are ready to learn by taking a comprehensive approach to child development - improving children's learning skills, health, nutrition, and social competency. Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased 55%, enabling Head Start to serve 836,000 children and their families in FY 98 under the Budget Agreement, and continuing expansion toward the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2002. [Budget Agreement; OMB]
- **Expanding School-To-Work.** The Clinton Administration is providing hundreds of thousands of students with school-to-career opportunities, where they experience work-based learning and gain access to pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. [School-to-Work Opportunities Act, P.L. 103-239] In 1994 and 1995, over 500,000 young people in 1,800 schools throughout the nation, as well as 135,000 employers, participated in school-to-work systems that integrate academic and vocational instruction and provide work-based learning. [Source: Department of Education, 12/96]

PREPARING OUR SCHOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

- **Expanding Access to Educational Technology**

Bringing Computers to the Classroom. The President's 1997 Budget Agreement with Congress doubles the funding for America's Technology Literacy Challenge, catalyzing private-public sector partnerships to put the information age at our children's fingertips. The President is committed to helping communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century. For 1998, the budget proposes \$425 million, more than doubling the \$200 million that Congress provided in 1997. [1997 Budget Agreement]

Linking Schools and Libraries to the Internet. The Clinton Administration is implementing a plan to create an "E-Rate," a discounted education rate for telecommunications services so schools and libraries will be able to bring technology into the classroom, set up phone lines and access the Internet at a fraction of the cost. The Federal Communications Commission has already approved a plan to make discounts worth \$2.25 billion annually available to our schools and libraries. [Source: Education Department Initiatives, 5/8/97]

- **Expanding school choice and accountability in public education.** The President has challenged every state to let parents choose the right public school for their children. The Clinton Administration is helping teachers, parents and community groups start charter schools -- innovative public schools that stay open only as long as they produce results and meet the highest standards. The President's proposed budget doubles funding to help start charter schools so that there will be more than 3,000 charter schools at the dawn of the 21st century. [Office of Management and Budget, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 1998, 1997]
- **Expanding Opportunity for Disabled Children.** President Clinton signed legislation reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strengthening and reaffirming our nation's 20-year commitment to disabled children and their parents. The IDEA demonstrates the Administration's commitment to educational opportunity for all, by helping ensure that children with disabilities are included in all facets of community life and are able to become independent and productive citizens.
- **Making Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug Free.** The Clinton Administration passed the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and successfully fought Republican efforts to cut this program, which supports school security, drug prevention and education programs in 97% of America's school districts. In addition, President Clinton signed the Gun-Free Schools Act and issued a Presidential Directive to enforce "zero tolerance" in our schools -- if a student brings a gun to school, he or she does not come back for a year. [Secretary Riley accomplishments memo]
- **Reducing Unnecessary Regulations.** The Clinton Administration has reduced regulations in its elementary and secondary programs by over two-thirds. [DPC/ Department of Education]

OPENING THE DOOR TO COLLEGE

- **Making the 13th and 14th years of education universal.**

Higher education tax cuts. The balanced budget agreement calls for roughly \$35 billion in tax cuts to help families pay for college. Congress has enacted the President's \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit, to make the first two years of college universally available. Students beyond the first two years, or part-time students seeking to improve or acquire job skills, can now receive a 20% tax credit for up to \$5,000 of tuition and required fees through 2002, and \$10,000 thereafter. [Balanced Budget 1997]

The largest Pell Grant increase in 20 years. President Clinton has already increased Pell Grants from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997. These grants provide a total of 3.7 million low-income students the opportunity to attend college this year. [OMB] And he plans to do more. The President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in Pell Grants in two decades -- a funding boost of 25%. The maximum award will reach \$3,000, \$700 more than in 1993. In the 1998 budget alone, nearly 350,000 additional students will receive grants. [Budget Agreement - National Economic Council; OMB]

- **Reforming Student Loans.** President Clinton cut student fees and interest rates for all borrowers, and expanded repayment options and improved service through the Direct Loan Program. [Student Loan Reform Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66] More than 2.1 million student and parent borrowers have received direct loans since the program began. [Source: Department of Education, 12/96] Under this Administration, the rate of student loan defaults within the first two years after borrowers leave college has reached an all-time low. The losses from student loan defaults fell from \$ 1.7 billion in 1992 to \$ 249 million in 1996 - an 86% drop. [Budget; Department of Education Press Release, 1/9/97]
- **Expanding Educational Opportunity Through Service.** The Clinton Administration has enabled 70,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program since the inception of the program. [The National and Community Service Act, P.L. 103-82; U.S. Newswire, 4/28/97]

THE AGENDA AHEAD:

President Clinton has issued a call to action for American education in the 21st Century:

- **Set rigorous national standards,** that all states adopt, with national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math to make sure our children master the basics.
- **Make sure a talented and dedicated teacher is in every classroom.** We must ensure teacher quality well into the 21st century by challenging our most promising young people to consider teaching as a career and setting high standards for entering the teaching profession.
- **Connect every classroom and library to the Internet** by the year 2000 and help all students become technologically literate.
- **Create 1,000 after-school safe havens in communities across the country.** This initiative would extend learning opportunities for children and their families at schools across the country, keeping schools open late, on weekends, and in the summer so young people will stay off the streets and out of trouble.
- **Ensure access to college for millions of students** while asking them to study hard and pay some of the costs of their own education by reauthorizing the Higher Education Act. [Secretary Riley, 6/19/97, draft testimony on Higher Education Reauthorization Act.]

Current
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9/29

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CLINTON ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION AGENDA: HELPING STUDENTS REACH HIGH STANDARDS

[T]he struggle for excellence for all must be our great mission. We must demand high standards of every student; our schools and teachers must meet world-class standards. But we must demand that every child be given the opportunity to meet those standards. Every child must have a chance to succeed in this new economy.

President Clinton, Speech to the NAACP National Convention,
July 17, 1997

High Expectations for All Students and Resources to Help Them Learn

A hallmark of President Clinton's efforts to improve American education has been that we should have high expectations for every student. He has urged states and school districts to adopt challenging academic standards in all core subjects, and to adopt high national standards in the basics of reading and mathematics. The President has strengthened existing federal programs and fought for new resources to improve local schools and help students reach these standards. President Clinton's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in our investment in education in 30 years and the largest single boost in college aid since the G.I. Bill. But we still have much to do in order to meet the President's goal of insuring that all Americans have the best education in the world.

Strengthening Existing Programs

- **Expanding Head Start to Reach 1 Million Children a Year.** President Clinton has made Head Start an Administration priority. For over 30 years, Head Start has helped low-income families create an environment where their children are ready to learn by taking a comprehensive approach to child development - improving children's learning skills, health, nutrition, and social competency. Under the Clinton Administration, funding for Head Start has increased 55%, enabling Head Start to serve 836,000 children and their families in FY 98 under the Budget Agreement, and continuing expansion toward the President's goal of serving 1 million children in 2002.
- **Raising Standards for Over Ten Million Low Income Students.** The Clinton Administration's Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 overhauled Title I, which provides extra help with basic and advanced skills to disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools. As a result of this Act, states now hold more than ten million low income students to the same high standards set for all other students in the state, and hold schools accountable for the results. The new law also provides funds for teacher training, and strengthened requirements for parental involvement. Under the Clinton Administration, investment in Title I has grown by over \$ 1 billion.
- **Making Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug Free.** The Clinton Administration passed the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and successfully fought Republican efforts to cut this program, which supports school security, drug prevention and education programs.
- **Expanding Opportunity for Disabled Children.** President Clinton signed legislation reauthorizing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), strengthening and reaffirming our nation's 20-year commitment to disabled children and their parents.

- **Bilingual and Immigrant Education.** The President's budget includes major increases in bilingual and immigrant education. These increases are specifically protected in the balanced budget agreement.

New Initiatives Already Working to Strengthen Local Schools

- **America Reads.** President Clinton launched the America Reads Challenge, a nationwide effort to mobilize a citizen army of a million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of third grade. The President's Balanced Budget provides for a child literacy initiative consistent with these goals.
- **Goals 2000.** Goals 2000, President Clinton's education reform initiative enacted in 1994, helps States establish standards of excellence for all children, and plan and implement steps to raise achievement. Communities in every state are using Goals 2000 funds to upgrade curriculum, improve teaching, increase parental involvement in schools, and make greater use of computers in the classroom. Since Goals 2000 was enacted in 1994, over \$1.3 billion has been invested in this vital initiative.
- **Strengthening the Skills of Classroom Teachers.** Under the Clinton Administration, funding for the Eisenhower Professional Development has increased by over 25%, strengthening the ability of teachers to improve their teaching skills in math, science and other core subjects. In addition, the President has called for supporting the work of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to help certify 100,000 master teachers -- at least one for every school -- over the next ten years.
- **Expanding school choice and accountability in public education.** The President has challenged every state to let parents choose the right public school for their children. The Clinton Administration is helping teachers, parents and community groups start charter schools -- innovative public schools that stay open only as long as they produce results and meet the highest standards. The President's proposed budget doubles funding to \$100 million help start charter schools so that there will be more than 3,000 charter schools at the dawn of the 21st century.
- **Expanding Access to Educational Technology**
Bringing Computers to the Classroom. The President's 1997 Budget Agreement with Congress doubles the funding for America's Technology Literacy Challenge, catalyzing private-public sector partnerships to put the information age at our children's fingertips. The President is committed to helping communities and the private sector ensure that every student is equipped with the computer literacy skills needed for the 21st century. For 1998, the budget proposes \$425 million, more than doubling the \$200 million that Congress provided in 1997.

Linking Schools and Libraries to the Internet. The Clinton Administration is implementing a plan to create an "E-Rate," a discounted education rate for telecommunications services so schools and libraries will be able to bring technology into the classroom, set up phone lines and access the Internet at a fraction of the cost. The FCC has already approved a plan to make discounts worth \$2.25 billion annually available to our schools and libraries, with low-

income schools eligible for discounts of up to 90%.

- **Expanding School-To-Work.** The Clinton Administration is providing hundreds of thousands of students with school-to-career opportunities, where they experience work-based learning and gain access to pathways from high school to good jobs and post-secondary education. In 1994 and 1995, over 500,000 young people in 1,800 schools throughout the nation, as well as 135,000 employers, participated in school-to-work systems that integrate academic and vocational instruction and provide work-based learning.

New Proposals to Improve Student Learning

- **Attracting and Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers.** President Clinton has proposed a 5-year initiative to attract nearly 35,000 talented people of all backgrounds into teaching at low-income urban and rural schools across the nation, and to dramatically improve the quality of training and preparation given to future teachers. The President's initiative will help recruit and prepare teachers nationwide to help our neediest students succeed in the 21st century.
- **Create 1,000 after-school safe havens in communities across the country.** The President's budget calls for extending learning opportunities for children and their families at schools across the country, keeping schools open late, on weekends, and in the summer so young people will stay off the streets and out of trouble.
- **School Construction.** The Administration will continue its push to help address the serious need for renovating and building schools nationwide.

Widening Access to College and Lifelong Learning

- **The largest Pell Grant increase in 20 years.** President Clinton has already increased Pell Grants from \$2,300 in 1993 to \$2,700 in 1997. These grants provide a total of 3.7 million low-income students the opportunity to attend college. And he plans to do more. The President's Budget Agreement with Congress includes the largest increase in Pell Grants in two decades -- a funding boost of 25%. The maximum award will reach \$3,000, \$700 more than in 1993. In the 1998 budget alone, nearly 350,000 additional students will receive grants.
- **Higher education tax cuts.** The balanced budget agreement calls for roughly \$35 billion in tax cuts to help families pay for college. Congress has enacted the President's \$1,500 HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit, to make the first two years of college universally available. Students beyond the first two years, or part-time students seeking to improve or acquire job skills, can now receive a 20% lifelong learning tax credit for up to \$5,000 of tuition and required fees through 2002, and \$10,000 thereafter.
- **Expanding Educational Opportunity Through Service.** The Clinton Administration has enabled 70,000 volunteers to earn money for college by serving their communities and their country in the AmeriCorps program since the inception of the program.

**The First Year Of President Clinton's Second Term:
A Strong Record Of Accomplishment
Friday, November 14, 1997**

On February 4, 1997, President Clinton laid out an ambitious "call to action" in the first State of the Union of his second term. As Congress adjourns this November, the record is clear. President Clinton drove the Congressional agenda this year and accomplished almost everything he set out to do ten months ago.

Balanced Budget & Tax Cuts:

- ✓ First Balanced Budget In A Generation
- ✓ Tax Cuts For 27 Million Families With Children

Education:

- ✓ Largest Investment In Education In 30 Years
- ✓ HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma
- ✓ Largest Increase In Pell Grants In 20 Years
- ✓ America Reads Initiative To Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade
- ✓ On Track For First-Ever National Test Of 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math
- ✓ 57% Increase For Public Charter Schools
- ✓ Head Start Expanded Toward Goal Of 1 Million Children By 2002

Health Care:

- ✓ Single Largest Investment In Children's Health Care Since 1965
- ✓ Medicare Protected, Modernized And Trust Fund Extended To Ten Years

Welfare:

- ✓ Restored Basic Health And Disability Benefits To Legal, Law Abiding Immigrants
- ✓ Enacted Comprehensive Plan To Move 2 Million More People Off Welfare

Urban Agenda:

- ✓ Tripled The Number Of Empowerment Zones
- ✓ 63% Expansion of Community Development Banks
- ✓ Brownfields Tax Incentive Will Redevelop 14,000 Contaminated Sites

Foreign Policy:

- ✓ Ratification Of The Chemical Weapons Convention
- ✓ The Chinese State Visit

Where We Came Up Short:

- ✗ Renewal Of Fast Track Authority
- ✗ Passage Of Campaign Finance Reform
- ✗ Enactment Of The Juvenile Justice Proposal
- ✗ Enactment Of School Construction Proposal

**The First Year Of President Clinton's Second Term:
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Balanced Budget & Tax Cuts:

- ✓ **First Balanced Budget In A Generation:** After cutting the deficit by XX percent in his first term, from \$290 billion to \$XX, President Clinton promised in his 1997 State of the Union speech to "propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002." On August 5, 1997, the President signed into law an historic, bipartisan bill to balance the budget for the first time since 1969.
- ✓ **Tax Cuts For 27 Million Families With Children:** In addition to balancing the budget, President Clinton promised in his State of the Union speech to "provide middle class tax relief...to help raise a child." On August 5, 1997, the President signed into law a \$500 per-child tax credit that will benefit 27 million families with 45 million children. For the typical American family with two kids, this child tax credit will mean \$1,000 more per year in take-home pay.

Education:

- ✓ **Largest Investment In Education In 30 Years:** In his February State of the Union speech, the President said his "number one priority" was to ensure that "all Americans have the best education in the world." The President said his balanced budget would reflect this commitment. Now, that commitment is the law. The balanced budget the President signed on August 5, 1997 includes the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill.
- ✓ **HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma:** In his February 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called for passage of his America's HOPE Scholarship proposal in order to "make the 13th and 14th years of education...just as universal in America by the 21st century as a high school education is today." Today, the HOPE Scholarship is law, providing a 100 percent tax credit on the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent on the second \$1,000 -- enough to pay for the typical community college.
- ✓ **Largest Increase In Pell Grants In 20 Years:** President Clinton pledged during the State of the Union that his Balanced Budget would include "the largest increase in Pell Grant Scholarship in 20 years." Now, that commitment is the law. On November 13, 1997, the President signed the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill which included his proposal to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$3,000 -- the largest increase in two decades. Approximately 3.7 million students will receive the \$300 increase, and an additional 220,000 low- and moderate-income families that were not previously eligible will receive Pell Grants.

**The First Year Of President Clinton's Second Term:
A Strong Record Of Accomplishment**
Friday, November 14, 1997

On February 4, 1997, President Clinton laid out an ambitious "call to action" in the first State of The Union of his second term. As Congress adjourns this November, the record is clear. President Clinton drove the Congressional agenda this year and accomplished almost everything he set out to do ten months ago.

Balanced Budget & Tax Cuts:

- ✓ **First Balanced Budget In A Generation:** After cutting the deficit by XX percent in his first term, from \$290 billion to \$XX, President Clinton promised in his 1997 State of the Union speech to "propose a detailed plan to balance the budget by 2002." On August 5, 1997, the President signed into law an historic, bipartisan bill to balance the budget for the first time since 1969.
- ✓ **Tax Cuts For 27 Million Families With Children:** In addition to balancing the budget, President Clinton promised in his State of the Union speech to "provide middle class tax relief...to help raise a child." On August 5, 1997, the President signed into law a \$500 per-child tax credit that will benefit 27 million families with 45 million children. For the typical American family with two kids, this child tax credit will mean \$1,000 more per year in take-home pay.

Education:

- ✓ **Largest Investment In Education In 30 years:** In his February State of the Union speech, the President said his "number one priority" was to ensure that "all Americans have the best education in the world." The President said his balanced budget would reflect this commitment. Now, that commitment is the law. The balanced budget the President signed on August 5, 1997 includes the largest investment in education in 30 years -- and the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill.
- ✓ **HOPE Scholarship Makes 13th & 14th Grades As Universal As A High School Diploma:** In his February 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called for passage of his America's HOPE Scholarship proposal in order to "make the 13th and 14th years of education...just as universal in America by the 21st century as a high school education is today." Today, the HOPE Scholarship is law, providing a 100 percent tax credit on the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent on the second \$1,000 -- enough to pay for the typical community college.
- ✓ **Largest Increase In Pell Grants 20 years:** President Clinton pledged during the State of the Union that his Balanced Budget would include "the largest increase in Pell Grant Scholarship in 20 years." Now, that commitment is the law. On November 13, 1997, the President signed the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill which included his proposal to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$3,000 -- the largest increase in two decades. Approximately 3.7 million students will receive the \$300 increase, and an additional 220,000 low- and moderate-income families that were not previously eligible will receive Pell Grants.

✓ **America Reads Initiative To Ensure Every Child Can Read By The 3rd Grade:**

Noting that “we must do more to help all our children read” during his 1997 State of the Union, President Clinton called on Congress to pass his America Reads Initiative. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 included nearly \$300 million in new funding towards the President’s comprehensive literacy strategy. As a result: 3000 new Americorps members and thousands of senior volunteers will recruit more than 100,000 volunteer reading tutors; State teacher training and family literacy efforts receive an additional \$41 million; and an advance appropriation of \$210 million is provided for pending legislation based on the President’s America Reads Initiative.

In addition, more than 800 colleges have answered the President’s State of the Union call, pledging to have thousands of their work-study students “serve for one year as reading tutors.”

✓ **On Track For First-Ever National Test Of 4th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math:** President Clinton issued a “challenge to the nation” during his State of the Union speech, calling on every state to “adopt high national standards” and “test every fourth grader in reading and every eighth grader in math to make sure these standards are met.” The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 fully funds (\$16 million) the Administration’s voluntary national testing program and allows for development and pilot testing of the first-ever national 4th grade reading and 8th grade math tests.

✓ **57% Increase For Public Charter Schools:** Continuing his lifelong commitment to improving and reforming America’s public schools, President Clinton called for a dramatic increase in the number of public charter schools in his 1997 State of the Union “so that parents will have even more choices in sending their children to the best schools.” The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 increases funding for charter schools by 57 percent, from \$51 million to \$80 million. And while there was only one charter school in the nation when President Clinton took office, there will be nearly 1,000 locally-designed charter schools supported by the Department of Education by the end of 1998 -- accelerating progress towards the President’s goal of 3,000 by early next century.

✓ **Head Start Expanded Toward Goal Of 1 Million Children By 2002:** Stating that “we already know we should start teaching children before they start school,” President Clinton proposed a balanced budget that “expands Head Start to one million children by 2002” in his 1997 State of the Union speech. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill the President signed on November 13, 1997 includes \$4.4 billion for Head Start, a \$374 million increase -- and a 57 percent increase since 1993. Head Start will serve 836,000 children and their families in 1998 and is on track meeting the President’s goal of reaching one million by 2002.

Health Care:

✓ **Single Largest Investment In Children’s Health Care Since 1965:** President Clinton pledged in his 1997 State of the Union that his balanced budget would “extend health coverage to up to five million...children.” Now, that commitment is law. The Balanced Budget Agreement that President Clinton Signed into law on August 5, 1997 included \$24 billion for the President’s Children’s Health Initiative -- the single largest investment in health care for children since passage of Medicaid in 1965. The \$24 billion will provide meaningful health care coverage to up to five million currently uninsured children.

✓ **Medicare Protected, Modernized And Trust Fund Extended To Ten Years:**

President Clinton promised during his 1997 State of the Union that his balanced budget plan would modernize Medicare and increase the life of the Medicare Trust Fund to ten years. Those promises were kept and are now law. The bipartisan balanced budget the President signed on August 5, 1997 extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund to ten years -- saving \$115 billion over five years and \$400-\$450 billion over ten years. The President worked hard to ensure that any Medicare savings came from thoughtful, long-term structural changes -- not from arbitrary cuts. Among the changes the President fought for: \$4 billion over five years for new preventive benefits -- expanded coverage for mammograms; colorectal screening; influenza shots; and improved self-management of diseases like diabetes.

Welfare:

✓ **Restored Basic Health And Disability Benefits To Legal, Law Abiding Immigrants:** When the President signed the 1996 Welfare Reform Law, he pledged to go back and change provisions he opposed regarding the cutting off of benefits to legal, law abiding immigrants. Many criticized the President and said changes would never be made to the bill. However, in 1997, the President followed through on his pledge -- and won nearly every change he sought in the 1996 law. The President fought for and won \$11.5 billion in SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. He fought for and won changes that protect those immigrants now receiving assistance, ensuring that they will not be turned out of their apartments or nursing homes or otherwise left destitute. And immigrants in this country as of August 22, 1996 but not receiving benefits who subsequently become disabled will be eligible for SSI and Medicaid.

✓ **Enacted Comprehensive Plan To Move 2 Million More People Off Welfare:** During his first term, President Clinton's lifetime of experience and innovative approach to welfare reform lead to the largest decline in welfare rolls in history. In his 1997 State of the Union, the President set out a plan including government incentives and private sector challenges to reach another goal: "two million more people off the welfare rolls by the year 2000."

Tax incentives and the \$3 Billion Welfare To Work Job Challenge Fund: The Balanced Budget Law includes a *tax credit for employers who hire long-term welfare recipients* equal to 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages in the first year of employment and 50 percent of the first \$10,000 in the second year to encourage retention. The President also succeeded in including \$3 billion to create his *Welfare to Work Job Challenge Fund* -- to assist states and communities in moving long-term welfare recipients into lasting, unsubsidized jobs.

Challenging the community and the Welfare To Work Partnership: The President challenged "every religious congregation, every community nonprofit, every business to hire someone off welfare." The President created the *Welfare to Work Partnership* to set up a national business effort to hire people off welfare. Begun with 100 businesses, the Partnership is aiming for 1,000 businesses within 6 months. Vice President Gore also reached out, creating the *Welfare to Work Coalition to Sustain Success* -- a coalition of civic groups committed to helping former welfare recipients stay in the workforce and succeed.

Urban Agenda:

- ✓ **Tripled The Number Of Empowerment Zones:** President Clinton called for a “doubling” of empowerment zones in his 1997 State of the Union. The Balanced Budget Law the President Clinton signed actually triples the number of EZs, adding 20 new Empowerment Zones (15 urban; 5 rural; and 2 based on a 1994 credit formula) -- bringing the total number created to 31.
- ✓ **63% Expansion of Community Development Banks:** President Clinton called for an expansion of Community Development Banks in his State of the Union speech. The Balanced Budget Law the President signed in August included \$80 million for Community Development Banks in FY 1998 -- a 63% increase over FY 1997. These banks make investment capital available in low- and moderate-income communities.
- ✓ **Brownfields Tax Incentive Will Redevelop 14,000 Contaminated Sites:** The President called for restoring “contaminated urban land and buildings to constructive use” through his Brownfields tax incentive program. Brownfields was part of the Balanced Budget Law the President signed. The tax incentives will leverage more than \$6 billion for private sector cleanups nationwide according to the Treasury Department -- and allow for the redevelopment of 14,000 contaminated, abandoned sites in economically distressed urban areas.

Foreign Policy:

- ✓ **Ratification Of The Chemical Weapons Convention:** President Clinton challenged Congress during his State of the Union speech to “rise to a new test of leadership” and pass the Chemical Weapons Convention.” And after an intense lobbying effort by the President, the Senate ratified the Convention on April 24, 1997.
- ✓ **The Chinese State Visit:** On October 28, 1997, President Clinton formally welcomed Chinese President Jiang Zemin to the White House for the first U.S. -- Sino State Visit in eight years. The State Visit ended with agreements on a broad range of security, economic, environmental and law enforcement issues -- and with frank, candid discussion regarding the our deep, fundamental differences on the issue of human rights.

Where We Came Up Short:

- ✗ **Renewal Of Fast Track Authority:** President Clinton’s lobbying efforts on behalf of renewed “fast track” trade authority resulted in a clear majority support in the United States Senate. A clear majority of Democratic governors and mayors supported the President’s position. In the House of Representatives, however, the vote had to be pulled when it became clear that opposition by Democratic lawmakers -- and the linking of the trade vote to international family planning by House Republicans
- ✗ **Passage Of Campaign Finance Reform:** Republican Congressional Leaders successfully prevented the McCain-Feingold/Meehan-Shays campaign finance reform legislation from coming to a vote. The President continues to support passage of the bill and is encouraged that Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle was able to extract a pledge from Majority Leader Trent Lott to have a clean up-or-down vote on the measure before March 6, 1998. The President will publicly and vocally back passage of the legislation.

- ✖ **Enactment Of The Juvenile Justice Proposal:** The President's Juvenile Justice legislation never received serious consideration this year. The President used his executive power to make progress on some of the central issues in the legislation -- including signing a directive to all federal agencies requiring child safety locks be issued with every handgun and reaching an agreement with 8 major handgun manufacturers to provide child safety locks with each handgun sold. The President is anxious to work with Congress to pass other important elements of his legislation.

- ✖ **Enactment Of School Construction Proposal:** The President sought \$5 billion to help communities finance \$20 billion in school construction over four years. While the Balanced Budget Law the President signed did include two smaller school construction provisions -- the President hopes to work with Congress to make this critical investment in our children education and future.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation.

NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress Main Points

1. No significant changes in performance between 1994 and 1996.

Between 1994 and 1996, there were no changes in average academic performance in any subject tested—science, mathematics, reading, or writing. This was true regardless of age, grade, or population subgroup (race/ethnicity or gender). We would not expect to observe much change in such a short period, as educational progress takes time.

2. Long-term improvements in science, mathematics, and reading performance.

Since the initial administration of the long-term trend assessment in the early 1970s, there have been overall trends toward higher performance in science, mathematics, and reading.

- Science. Scores generally declined through the 1970s, but then turned upward during the 1980s. These improvements have been sustained during the 1990's.
- Mathematics. Mathematics scores have trended upward for all age groups since the earliest assessment of this subject in 1973.
- Reading. Reading scores have trended upward since 1971, but the amount of change has been slight.

3. In writing, improvement for 4th- and 8th-graders since 1990, but scores of 11th graders have declined somewhat over the years.

Differences in revising strategies between the older and younger grades may be associated with differential performance in writing. Students at grades 4 and 8 reported they increased the extent to which they do "process writing" techniques, while 11th graders did not report any increase in these. For example, higher percentages of 4th graders in 1996 than in 1984 reported that more than half the time they take out parts of drafts they don't like, and higher percentages of 8th graders reported moving sentences and paragraphs within their compositions (also more than half the time), while the frequency for 17-year-olds did not change for these revising strategies. On the other hand, the percentage of 17-year-olds who reported rewriting their papers more than half the time declined, a change not reported by the younger age groups.

4. Improvements in academic performance at all age groups, and 9-year-olds have made the most consistent improvement.

The performance scores of 9-year-olds in 1996 were higher than those in the early 1970s in science, mathematics, and reading; their writing performance has also improved since 1990. The performance of 13-year-olds was higher in mathematics and reading in 1996 compared with the earliest assessment, and their writing score was higher than in 1990. Seventeen-year-olds, on the other hand, had a lower score in science in 1996 than in the earliest assessment year, though there has been improvement during the 1990s. Eleventh graders have declined in writing performance since 1984, however.

Many factors may account for the greater consistency of improvement in the younger groups over the long term. While some of these factors may not be measured by NAEP, data are collected on various relevant background characteristics. For example, the percentage of 17-year-olds who report that they read for fun daily has declined, and the percentage who report never reading for fun has increased. These patterns were not observed for the younger age groups. In addition, the percentages of 9- and 13-year-olds who report reading more than 20 pages per day in school and for homework have increased, while no change was reported by 17-year-olds.

Finally, changes in television differed between 17-year-olds and the younger age groups. Lower percentages of 9- and 13-year-olds reported watching 6 or more hours of television per day in 1996 than in 1982, while there was a small increase in this frequency of television watching reported by 17-year-olds. (The percentage of 17-year-olds who reported watching 6 or more hours of television in 1996, however, was less than that for the younger age groups.)

5. Decrease in some gaps between race/ethnic groups and between genders over the years.

Science. The black-white gap has decreased for 9- and 13-year-olds, and there was an overall pattern of decreasing gaps between males and females at ages 13 and 17.

Mathematics. The gap between black and white students narrowed at all three ages, and the gap between white and Hispanic students narrowed at ages 13 and 17. The male-female gap narrowed for 17-year-olds, but widened slightly in favor of males at ages 9 and 13.

Reading. The black-white gap decreased at ages 9 and 17. The white-Hispanic gap was about the same in 1996 as in 1975. The male-female gap narrowed at ages 13 and 17.

Writing. There has been no significant change in gaps between race/ethnic groups or genders between 1984 and 1996.

6. Students are taking higher-level courses in science and mathematics.

Science. There was a trend toward greater percentages of 17-year-olds taking biology and chemistry between 1986 and 1996. The percentages of black and Hispanic students taking chemistry increased considerably, and women were more likely to study biology, chemistry and physics in 1996 than in 1986.

Mathematics. A higher proportion of 13-year-olds were taking prealgebra, and more 17-year-olds were taking algebra II, precalculus, or calculus in 1996 compared with 1986. The percentages of black and Hispanic 17-year-old students taking algebra II have increased, and women were more likely to take algebra II as well as precalculus or calculus.

1996 Trends in Academic Progress

- **Short-Term Trends**

- No changes in performance 1994 to 1996

- **Long-Term Trends**

- Improvements in science, mathematics, and reading performance

- Decline in 11th grade writing scores

- Improvement most consistent for 9-year-olds

- Decrease in many gaps between race/ethnic groups and between genders

- Higher-level course-taking in science and mathematics