

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Re: Personal (1 page)	05/04/1997	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
William Kincaid
OA/Box Number: 11091

FOLDER TITLE:

Arkansas Material

2017-0692-S

jn96

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Bill Status: SB57
Sponsor: RUSS ET AL

**TO AMEND AND REPEAL VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ARK. CODE ANN. §
6-15-1001 ET SEQ. RELATIVE TO ARKANSAS EDUCATION GOALS AND
PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.**

Jan 15 1997 14:01:11 - Read first time, rules suspended, read second time, referred to Committee on Education

Jan 27 1997 14:26:35 - Rules suspended.

Jan 27 1997 14:27:48 - Withdrawn from Committee for purpose of amendment # 1

Jan 27 1997 14:30:45 - Amendment # 1 read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and adopted, ordered engrossed.

Jan 28 1997 13:30:00 - Report correctly engrossed.

Jan 28 1997 13:31:00 - Re-referred to the Committee on Education

Mar 7 1997 11:00:27 - Returned by the Committee with the recommendation that it Do Pass as amended, Amendment # 2

Agendas Currently Scheduled that are Considering SB57

Currently not scheduled on any agenda

[Return to Bill Query Page](#)

[Return to Main Page](#)

nonverbal abilities test called the Naglieri.

The task force, in its recommendations, said students should be tested for the Vanguard program in the spring of their kindergarten year.

The students would be rated, based on both the objective and subjective criteria, and the selection process would be run centrally by the district, not by the individual school.

Students rated in the top 2 percent

would get their first choice of school. A lottery would be used to fill the remaining seats, and the rest of the students who qualify for Vanguard programs would be given their second or third choice of schools or be placed on a waiting list.

A strong marketing program also would be conducted by the district to try to identify all gifted students and inform parents of their options.

Trustees also have discussed the need

to increase the number of Vanguard schools, particularly in areas of the city that don't have any.

But trustee Arthur Gaines cautioned that increasing the number of Vanguard schools actually could decrease diversity since there are relatively few white and Asian-American students in the district.

In fact, only 14 percent of the students are white or Asian-American while 86 percent are black or Hispanic. ■

35. The Dallas Morning News

October 17, 1997

Critics calling for Leos' resignation

Supporters defend board president amid questions of leadership, fairness

By Duchesne Paul Drew
The Dallas Morning News

Moments after former Superintendent Yvonne Gonzalez officially became a felon, Dallas school district critics turned on a new target and demanded the resignation of board President Kathleen Leos.

In the six months since Ms. Leos assumed the presidency, the district has been entangled in turmoil. In addition to Dr. Gonzalez's guilty plea to misapplying district funds, the FBI and internal auditors continue to investigate corruption allegations at the district, and racial politics continue to plague school officials. Some of Ms. Leos' colleagues also have accused her of trying to engineer the ouster of chief financial officer Matthew Harden Jr.

Ms. Leos, 49, is at the center of board politics, a considerable shift for someone who remembers having to bang her shoe on the table to get her colleagues' attention.

This week, fellow trustee John Dodd accused her of warning him not to fraternize with black board members. That allegation has refueled resignation demands and raised questions among some people about whether she can continue to lead the board effectively, particularly as it prepares to search for a new superintendent.

Ms. Leos declined to respond to Mr. Dodd's accusations and the calls for her resignation.

The first-term trustee says the fact that she hasn't had to use her shoe as a gavel shows how far the board has come.

"I think the board has changed quite a bit in the past 2 1/2 years. And I think one of the changes that I see is a commitment to a different style of leadership," she said.

But Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, Dallas NAACP president Lee Alcorn and some of her fellow trustees say Ms. Leos was blindly loyal to Dr. Gonzalez and that has affected her ability to lead the district's governing body.

"It's time for new board leadership," said trustee Ron Price. "I believe in true leadership, unbiased leadership, leadership that looks at both sides of the fence, not just one way or the other. And we don't have that right now."

Ms. Leos has flatly denied that she and Dr. Gonzalez were close friends and that she did the superintendent's bidding.

"We think she's attached at the hip to Gonzalez," Commissioner Price said.

"Dodd was the newest member of the board," he said, "and apparently Mrs. Leos had no difficulty whatsoever in offering to him the white code of conduct - 'Stay away from black folks.'"

Mr. Dodd's comments were delivered in a deposition Monday in a lawsuit Mr. Harden filed against a private investigation firm. Commissioner Price said the comments are part of "the mounting evidence that continues to suggest her ineptness in terms of leadership. We think it's only proper that she resign."

But supporters say Ms. Leos can lead a diverse board, given the opportunity.

Tom Lazo, co-chairman of the Dallas

Together Forum, a union of businesses, chambers of commerce and nonprofit groups whose goal is to break down racial barriers, was a Leos backer when she ran for the board in 1995 and continues to support her.

The former chairman of the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce described Ms. Leos as a consensus-builder and said the district's success also depends on her fellow trustees.

"She can be as effective as that board will let her," he said. "Given the opportunity and given the time, I think she can show she can lead."

Mayor Ron Kirk said Ms. Leos "has done an admirable job of at least trying to find consensus on the board."

As during her predecessor Bill Keever's tenure, Ms. Leos' presidency has been marked by angry protests, primarily by blacks who opposed Dr. Gonzalez and Hispanics who supported her.

Ms. Leos' election as board president was sealed by a racial vote. Ms. Leos, who is white, was elected board president on the strength of six votes - those of the five white and one Hispanic trustees. The three black board members voted against her.

At the time, Ms. Leos said: "It is time to heal. It's time to lock hands. It's time to look to the future, and it's time to focus on the children."

And while Ms. Leos says she's done just that, her critics say otherwise. Several trustees also blamed much of the board tension on Ms. Leos' relationship

the American College Test. Also, the group voted to add a preliminary list of criteria that would be used to consider administrative admissions. The group voted 20-5 to accept the proposed

standards. Babcock said White will make annual reports to the faculty on the progress of students he chooses to admit from the administrative pool. Babcock

said their graduation rates could be used to determine what criteria could best predict a student's chances at succeeding at the university. ■

33. Forth Worth Star-Telegram

October 17, 1997

School workers to get day on town

By Karen Rouse
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

FORT WORTH — Improved test scores, innovative programs and partnerships with more than 500 city businesses has earned the Fort Worth school district's 8,000 employees a day of activities and bargains downtown tomorrow.

For the first time, the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and the city will join to salute the school staff — from custodians and cafeteria workers to clerks and teachers — for their contributions to students.

"The Fort Worth ISD is a big business and it takes all of those employees to make it go," said Donna Parker, chamber executive vice president.

At least 800 school staff members are expected to participate in the downtown activities, which literally kick off at 8:15 a.m. with an aerobics warm up at The Worthington hotel. Then school employees can take a fun walk around downtown led by a motorcycle police officer and band while cheerleaders encourage them from the sidelines.

Staff members will get a continental breakfast, be entertained by students and participate in a scavenger hunt in which the top prize is dinner at Cafe USA.

For the rest of the afternoon, school employees will get special discounts to shop and dine at downtown businesses.

Parker touted recent improvement in students' Texas Assessment of Academic Skills scores. She also commended the

Fort Worth district for its partnerships with business through such programs as Adopt-A-School, Tandy Scholars, and an internship program in which seventh-grade students visit local businesses and apply classroom skills to the work world.

Parker said the district is the third-largest employer in the city, after American Airlines and Lockheed Martin.

Citing the C-3, Classroom, Corporations, and Community program where business people serve as mentors, city spokesman Pat Svacina commended the school's curriculum, calling in innovative.

Svacina said tomorrow's event is a chance for the chamber and city to say, "Hey, good job, guys." ■

34. Houston Chronicle

October 17, 1997

Magnet school admissions plan studied

By MELANIE MARKLEY

A proposal to test all HISD students and consider factors other than race in filling gifted and magnet programs actually could increase diversity, school researchers say. —

Houston school trustees, meeting late Thursday in an emergency session, reviewed data that examined the effects of a plan to revamp the magnet application process and eliminate race as a selection factor.

According to the data, changing the system and substituting subjective criteria for racial guidelines could increase the number of minority students who would qualify for the select programs.

The school board had requested the research after a task force in July recommended changes in the current

admissions policy, which sets racial goals of 65 percent Hispanic and black, and 35 percent white and Asian-Americans in the district's magnet and Vanguard, or gifted, programs.

"It seems to me we are at very interesting juncture here," said school board President Don McAdams as trustees asked questions about the findings.

The board is expected to vote Thursday whether to eliminate race as a factor in choosing students for the select programs.

The board, after hearing the presentation, immediately adjourned into a closed session to discuss a related reverse-discrimination lawsuit that is scheduled to begin Oct. 27 in federal court.

Fourteen white and Asian-American

parents have challenged the district's race-based selection process for the magnet and Vanguard programs in the district.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs have said that they would drop the lawsuit if HISD revised its policy.

According to the research data, 40 percent of the qualified applicants in middle school Vanguard programs are black or Hispanic while about 60 percent are white or Asian-American.

Officials said the pool of qualified students would increase dramatically if the district tests all students for the Vanguard program and takes into account grades, interviews, teacher and parent evaluations and hardship factors, such as poverty or limited English.

The students would take both the Stanford Achievement Test and a

30. San Francisco Chronicle

October 17, 1997

UC Fees Suit Has Stretched On for 18 Years

Charles Burress
Chronicle Staff Writer

BERKELEY--Little did they know it then, but when six University of California students filed a lawsuit 18 years ago they raised fundamental free speech questions that the courts are still trying to answer. The case began modestly at UC Berkeley when the six students sued the university regents, protesting their mandatory fees being used to fund campus political groups and the independent student senate, which often issues resolutions on political subjects. It has been to the state Supreme Court three times already, the latest Wednesday when the court refused to review a lower court ruling. The Supreme Court's action allows the senate to continue receiving about a dollar or less from each student's \$21 annual fee, but attorneys for both sides say the issue is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The reason the case has persisted so long and run up hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills is that both sides have tailored compelling arguments out of the First Amendment. The suit has teamed up with other high-profile cases over mandatory fees, such as for the California Bar

Association and for unions, in helping to expand a territory of free-speech protection sometimes called "the negative First Amendment," or "the right to shut up," said Mark Gallagher, attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation of Sacramento, which represents the six plaintiffs. Gallagher likes to quote one court's ruling in a similar case: "The First Amendment protects people from having to put their money where their mouth isn't." The lone remaining question in the UC case is whether fees will go to the student senate, the legislative arm of the nonprofit Associated Students of the University of California. The issue of fees going to campus political groups was resolved four years ago, when the courts agreed with the six plaintiffs and ruled that any student could receive a refund of fees that went to politically oriented groups, ranging from the defunct Students Against Intervention in El Salvador to the still-thriving Sierra Club. The attorney for the student senate, Mark Himmelstein, said that the body is a free-speech forum that serves an important educational role and that financing it with mandatory student fees is a protection of free speech, not a

restriction. "If we are to live in a democracy that has to depend on majority rule respecting minority rights in an increasingly multiethnic society, we have a duty as a public university to create a forum so that people can come to learn how to present their views and get along with one another," he said. "A public university's responsibility in creating a marketplace of ideas cuts to the core of First Amendment protections for mandatory student fees," he said. So far, state courts have agreed with the Associated Students and Himmelstein, but he expects to see the case appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Gallagher said that no firm decision has been made but that he is likely to appeal. He said the nation's high court has indicated that the case touches upon an important unresolved issue, and he noted that it was cited by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in an important 1995 ruling on mandatory fees at the University of Virginia. The six students who filed the case, Smith vs. Regents, could not be reached. One of them, San Francisco attorney Arlo Smith Jr., son of the city's former district attorney, has become co-counsel with Gallagher. ■

31. New York Post

October 17, 1997

FEAR & VIOLENCE RULE AT CITY HORROR HIGH

By MARIA ALVAREZ

Martin Luther King Jr. HS is a ticking time bomb where violence rules and fighting, pot-smoking students threaten those who want to learn, parents, teachers and kids say.

Worse, complaints have been brought to school officials without success, they charge.

"We've brought these issues on the floor, but the principal has swept them under the rug," parent Sandra Stevens charged. "It's got to the point where she ^Principal Stephanie D'Amore_ told us it

was none of anyone's business, and we shouldn't get involved."

Yet the violence can no longer be ignored, teachers and students insist.

For example:

Two teachers reported being attacked by students - including an incident in which one was kicked down a flight of stairs.

Two students told The Post they were chased by boxcutter-wielding gang members the same day an official denied any gang-related problem at the school.

Ten days ago, a 13-year-old girl was

sodomized by three reputed Bloods gang members as part of an initiation rite.

Board of Ed spokeswoman Karen Crowe said letters raising concerns about safety at MLK have been forwarded "to the appropriate offices for investigation and follow-up."

In addition, Alan Ray, a spokesman for state Education Commissioner Richard Mills, said the city office is in the process of looking at MLK and reviewing academic achievement.

But parents worry the corridors of the five-story building next to prestigious

Lincoln Center have become "a breeding ground for gangs," Stevens said.

Last year, MLK had 213 reported incidents - the highest number of any Manhattan high school.

It ranked fifth citywide for having the most serious incidents at a high school - which includes assaults and robberies.

D'Amore refused to be interviewed Wednesday, claiming "there is no gang violence here."

Yet two students told The Post they were chased by a gang of Bloods armed with boxcutters the day before.

Omar, 17, and Danny, 16, who did not want to give their last names for fear of gang retaliation, said they were chased by at least seven gang members. One tried to slice Omar in the face with a boxcutter.

"I was wearing red and he asked me why I was wearing his ^gang's_ colors," Omar said.

"There is no order in that school,"

protested Omar's mother, who did not want to give her name. "The assistant principal said they were not responsible for students outside the school. They don't care."

English teacher Corrine Gittenman said her warnings about gang-related activity and an out-of-control student fell on deaf ears - and got her kicked down a flight of stairs last April.

"She grabbed my head and started banging it against the metal railing," said Gittenman, who was hospitalized for a month and suffered permanent nerve damage to her back. "There was no security anywhere."

And when the student was arrested, a gang of her friends surrounded the guidance counselor's office to protest, said Gittenman, who worked at the school for 10 years but now refuses to return.

Math teacher John Darcy said he was pushed into a table when trying to stop a

student from choking another student last November. Darcy, who said MLK officials discouraged him from filing a report, was transferred to another school.

"Assaults are not being reported," he said. "A lot of things are not being reported. The most terrifying is the gambling - with dice and cards."

Former MLK Dean Ricardo Brenes wrote to Mills this summer to inform him that at least 1,000 students had an average of 100 class-cuts per semester.

"Some of these students use the school for gambling, vandalism, to use drugs, to assault and enlist members into their gangs," said Brenes, who was later demoted and transferred to another school.

Jande Freeman, a 17-year-old senior, who goes to class and wants to become a lawyer, said: "If you go to class you won't get into trouble. But you still have to watch your back, and pray to God." ■

32. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

October 17, 1997

UA faculty OK higher admission standards

JENNIFER PINKERTON
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

FAYETTEVILLE — The University of Arkansas faculty senate endorsed a proposal Thursday to raise admission standards for incoming freshmen that would have disqualified almost 30 percent of the 1997 class. The new standards have been approved by Chancellor John A. White, who plans to take the standards to the board of trustees on Nov. 21. The standards would raise the minimum grade point average to 3.0 from 2.75. Also, the proposal would introduce the requirement that freshmen score at least a 20 on the American College Test, which measures students' aptitude for college. Students still would be required to complete 16 core high school courses, a standard in place since 1993. The goal for the new standards is to raise the six-year graduation rate at the Fayetteville campus, which was 41 percent for incoming freshmen from 1990. White has said he wants to raise the rate to 65 percent. The standards are intended to create two classes of students, said Buddy Babcock, a chemical engineering professor who lead the committee that developed the

standards. The students who meets the requirements would be admitted unconditionally. A second group of students who fall below the standards would be placed in a pool for "administrative review." Babcock said students in administrative review would work closely with the university to develop a plan for reaching the admission standards, such as taking a community college course. The administrative review also would allow admission of students with "special talents" or those who complete tasks such as writing an admissions essay. Babcock said the criteria for administrative admissions would be developed by White, along with faculty and staff committees. Babcock said high school students are turned off by the university's admissions rate — 90 percent in 1996 — because they seek some competition. He said the university could attract more high-quality students who would not have considered the university before the standards were raised. "We know from a marketing standpoint that a competitive pool is a plus," Babcock said. Some faculty members said the administrative review policy could give White too much

authority to approve admissions, a job the board of trustees has given to the faculty. "This may be the greatest thing since sliced bread, but it looks to me like you're giving him [White] a blank check," said Jerry Yeargan, an electrical engineering professor. James Chase, a history professor, said allowing White to determine which students might be conditionally admitted would undermine the reason for raising the standards. "What we have here is an athletic exception," Chase said. Babcock said most athletes would be admitted under the category of "special talents" students. But White would give the same consideration to a special chemistry student as an athlete, Babcock said. After a faculty member asked about a criteria labeled "diversity," Babcock said race might be among the considerations for special admissions. "We know that race is an issue on campus, and yes, diversity will be considered in the administrative review," he said. He said White might also give consideration to other groups whose numbers put them in the minority, such as the disabled. The faculty voted to amend the standards to include the Scholastic Assessment Test equivalent to

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

POST CLASS

034



0000

26008

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGDALE, AR
72764
MAY 06, 97
AMOUNT

\$1.47
00060906-01

FROM Mary Lou Miller
709 Henryetta 72764
Springdale, Arkansas
TO Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kincaid
4545 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	Re: Personal (1 page)	05/04/1997	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
William Kincaid
OA/Box Number: 11091

FOLDER TITLE:

Arkansas Material

2017-0692-S

jn96

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

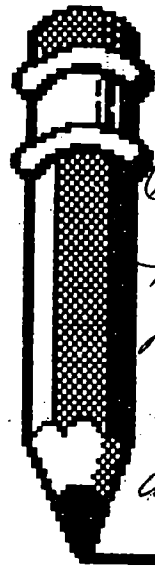
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

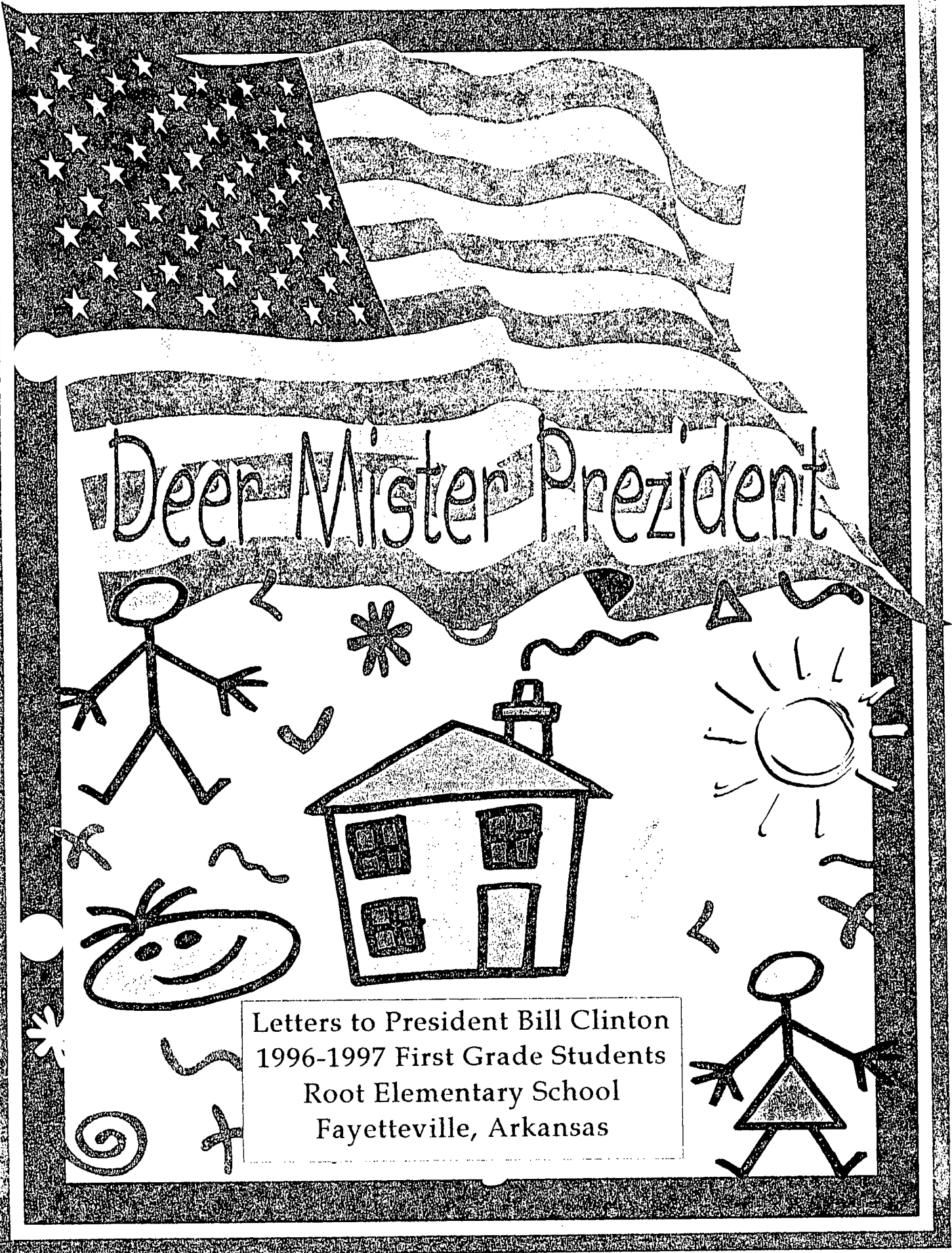
b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

**From the desk
of...Mary L. Miller**



P.S. I thought you might
enjoy seeing copies of the
letters we sent individually to
the President. As yet we
have received no answers, but
we are going on the faith
we will as he sent them four
years ago.

ML



Dear Mister Prezident

Letters to President Bill Clinton
1996-1997 First Grade Students
Root Elementary School
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Deer Mister Prezident

*The following letters were written to
United States President, Bill Clinton
in February of 1997. These letters appear
just as the children wrote them, and
were not altered or corrected.*



The Children

Sydnee Abernathy

Christopher Baker

Hilary Darling

: Kahlilah Fleming

Jordan Jones

Kylie Jones

Calais Kraichoke

Hannah Lavy

Michael Lyman

Seslie Mabry

Mackenzie O'Brien

Angela Oliver

Ian Plummer

Asher Rosenzweig

Haley Shivers

Samuel Smith

Matthew Spears

Andrea Springer

Reed Taylor

Angela Thomas

Danny Williams

Bilall Ziada

Mary Lou Miller, Teacher, Room 7

Oma Blackwell, Principal, Root Elementary School

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

I was wondering if you could please send me a picture of your familie and Soles?

I voted for you because your a good President. I like you as a President. Have a good day! Love, your friend

Sydnee Abernathy

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

Will you please send me
a pitcher of Sox? You're the
best President! Our flag is
red, white and blue. Did you know
George Washington was a
President too President Clinton?

Your fine friend
Chris Baker

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

I wonder if you could tack a pic
at the White House and the
monuments? Could you?

If you can thank you,

Your friend,

Hilary Darling

Root School

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

Please send me a picture of Sock?
I voted for you. Do you like the White
House? Cool me. My phone number
is 521-8569. I like you very much
you are a great President!

Your friend

Kahlilah Fleming
Grade One

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,
Please send me a pic of Soos and
Hilary and you. I love you Bill.
Tell me. I would like to visit you
at the White House. I like all
the presidents. You were nice close.

Your friend,
Jordan Jones

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

Will you ples send me a
pikchr ov Sox? You are a
grate President! I'm glad
you are still President. I
voted for you at Root School.

Your Friend,
Kylie Jones
Grade One

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton;

I would like a pitcher of your
family and Socks please.

Do you like being the President?

I like you as a President.

Do you like liveing in the White
House?

Your Friend,

Calais Kraichoke

Grade One

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

Will you please send me a picture of you and your girl and Socks? I voted for you in school. I really like you. Do you like the White House? Do you like being the President? Is being the President a big job?

Your friend,

Hannah Lavy

February 24¹⁹⁹⁷

Dear President Clinton,

I am going to run for
President and I hope I win!

Will you please send me a
picsher of George Washington
and Abraham Lincoln? My phone
numbre is (501) 521-5605.

Please kall me. Thank you

Bill Clinton. Your friend,
Michael Toman

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,
I voted for you and I am glad
werz you are glad and am sad werz
ou are sad. Mester Clinton, wood
ou call me? You may give me my
wish. Please. Werz do you work? I
to work to.

Your friend,

home (501) 444-6172 Sesslie Mabry

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,
May I please have a picture
of Socks and do you like
our wife? I like the White
House and I like the way you
dress. Say Bill do you like your
cat named Socks? My phone
number ⁵⁰¹ 443-1449. Your friend,

Mackenzie O'Brien

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

I wood like a pickre of Socks
and I wood like a pickure of you
I like you being the President.
May I please have a pickure of
your dauter and your wife? I know
you live in the White House.

Your friend,

Angela Oliver

February 14, 1997

Dear President Clinton,
I like your close. May I
please send me your pickcher
if you and one of socks I like
you being the president of
the U.S.A. You are the best
resident. I voted for you,

Your friend,
Ian Plummer

February 24, 1997

Dear Bill Clinton,

Could you send me some Arema stuff?

How are things doing in Washington?

Did you know that my mom is Carlynn

ing. You friend,

Asher Joseph Rosenzweig

I am named for my Grandfather

who was your doctor when you were a

little boy.

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

Will you please send me a
picture of the White House?

You have bin a good president
and I like you very much. Thank
you for the picture.

Your friend,

Haley Shivers

Grade One

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,
Will you please give me a
picture of Socks? I voted for
you. I like you! You are a good
President. I am glad that
you are the President.

Your friend,
Samuel Smith
Grade One

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

I VOTED for you at Root School.
Can I please have a picture of
Socks and you and Hilary?

Your Bud,

Matthew Spears

Grade 1

Age 7

Room 7

February 24, 1999

Dear President Clinton,

Will you please let me have a
picker of your family and will
you please let me have a picker
of Socks, and will you please
let me have a picker of you
with your family in front of the
White House? Your friend,

Andrea Springer

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

Can you please give me a picture of the
cat and a picture of your grill and
can you please give me a picture of the
statue of liberty? Thank you!

Your friend,

Reed Taylor

Grade One

Root School

February 28, 1997

Dear President Clinton,

I like you very much. Do you remember my Dad? He was Mike Thomas Moore. Would you send me a picture for Socks?

Your friend,

Angela Thomas

Grade One

Root School

February 24, 1997

Dear President Clinton,
Will Clinton will you please send
me a picture of Socs in front of the
White House? You are a good president. I
like you. I am glad you are our
resident.

Your friend,
Danny William
Grade One

February 24, 1997

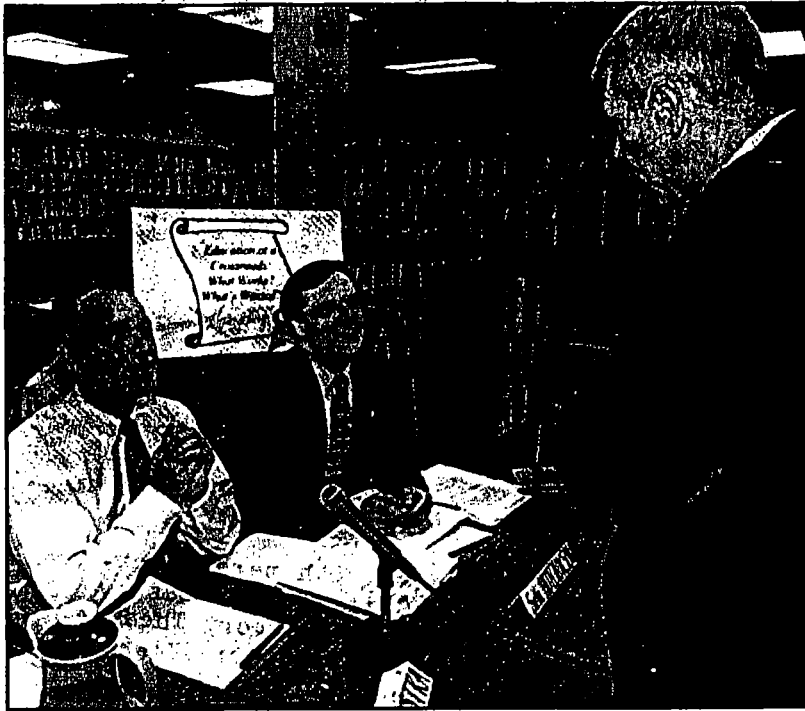
Dear President Clinton,
I'd like to have a picture of Socks and
a picture of you and a picture of the
White House. Thank you!

Your friend,

Bilal Ziada

Grade One





Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

State Rep. Ed Thicksten (right), D-Alma, talks with U.S. Sen. Tim Hutchinson (center), R-Ark., and U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., before a field hearing Thursday at Little Rock's Central High School by the oversight and investigations subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Education panel urged to remove federal red tape

5/30/97
BY CYNTHIA HOWELL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Gov. Mike Huckabee, state educators and community members urged Congress on Thursday to remove regulations and paperwork tied to federal education dollars.

"We would like to see federal funding come more and more in the form of block grants with the discretion given to the state, which in turn could give the discretion to the districts as to how that money could be used," Huckabee said.

Huckabee was one of more than a dozen people who addressed an oversight and investigations subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. The subcommittee has held similar field hearings across the country.

The subcommittee, chaired by
See **EDUCATION**, Page 15A

Education

• Continued from Page 1A

Rep. Peter Hoekstra, R-Mich., met in the library at Little Rock's Central High School at the invitation of U.S. Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark. Hutchinson was co-chairman of the meeting. Rep. Vic Snyder, D-Ark., and Rep. Robert Scott, D-Va., also participated in the session.

"The less control that comes from above and the more control that can come from those closest to the classroom, the better the education value, the better the bang for the buck," Huckabee told federal lawmakers.

Scott asked Huckabee whether he was worried that a block grant system of funding might lack sufficient safeguards. He also wondered whether block grants might make states more vulnerable to across-the-board federal funding cuts.

Block grants should increase funding available to the states because financing to comply with myriad regulations won't be necessary, Huckabee said.

"We would be concerned if you say 'We want you to do all these things that we have been doing but we are going to cut the budget in half,'" he said. "That would be fundamentally unfair to the state. I think you would have 50 governors on your doorstep in Congress speaking with a unified voice."

Ed McKinney, superintendent of the Van Buren School District, told the committee that funding requirements for existing programs such as vocational and special education and Title I programs for education of socioeconomically disadvantaged children are difficult to meet.

"The federal government should continue to appropriate funds to support public education; its role should be to supplement and to enhance good public education, not 'control' it," McKinney said.

He also urged increased funding for early childhood education programs, which research shows are beneficial to a child's success in school.

Dr. Charles Adair, superintendent of the Harrison School District, told the panel, "Local school boards usually don't devise wasted programs. They are close to the taxpayer."

John Riggs IV, president of the Little Rock School Board, said he would not favor block grants for programs such as school lunches and special education but that they would be appropriate for other programs.

Riggs asked for federal assistance in rehabilitating old school buildings.

The Little Rock district needs

buildings up to standards. He also asked for federal assistance in early childhood education, an expensive program provided primarily out of local funds.

Hoekstra's subcommittee has found that there are more than 760 federal education programs spread throughout 40 different federal agencies.

The subcommittee's purpose is to hear from people across the country about their experiences with those. Its goal is to devise legislation on the basis of recommendations.

Snyder questioned the number of identified programs, saying that at least one-third are higher education programs, not elementary and secondary education.

"Isn't that an inflated number just to make the federal government look bad?" Snyder asked at one point.

Hoekstra responded that there are more than 200 elementary and secondary programs funded in different ways by different federal agencies.

Snyder and Mike Watson, president of the Arkansas Policy Foundation, also discussed the possibility of national education standards.

Snyder said the federal role in school districts is limited and schools are a state and local operation.

Watson said Goals 2000 legislation comes perilously close to imposing national standards and a national board on the states.

"I would not support a mandatory set of standards," Snyder said.

But, he said, there is a need for nonmandatory federal standards so that school districts know what is expected of them.

That's important in terms of national defense needs and competing in a global economy, Snyder said. Watson agreed there is a national interest in nonmandatory standards.

Many people believe control of schools is shifting from the local district to the federal government, Hoekstra said. The federal government provides the school lunch and breakfast programs, and offers a sex education curriculum and the safe and drug-free schools program. There is also talk of national standards, and national teacher certification, as well as infrastructure and technology assistance, he said.

After the hearing, Hoekstra said he does not envision less money going to the states.

"I think we'll end up with giving much more flexibility," he said.

**More Arkansas
News Every Day**

State money OK for private schools, 61% in survey say

Murphy Commission leader says state's parents 'want school choice'

BY CYNTHIA HOWELL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A majority of Arkansans believe that state funds should finance a child's private school education if a parent so chooses, according to the results of a new survey conducted on behalf of the Murphy Commission.

The random telephone survey of 406 Arkansans was done last month by the University of Central Arkansas' Department of Geography, Political Science and Sociology at no cost to the commission. The commission is made up of about 150 state business leaders and citizens who will eventually recommend to lawmakers and to the public some ways to make state government smaller, more accountable and more efficient.

Sixty-one percent of the respondents to the Murphy Commission survey said parents should be able to designate state funds for their child's education at a school of the parent's choice, whether public or private.

Unlike some states, Arkansas does not permit state funding of private school tuition. The issue has proven controversial both locally and nationally.

The Murphy Commission survey results run counter to the results of a poll that the national Gallup Organization conducted a year ago for the Arkansas Department of Education.

In the earlier poll respondents similarly supported a parent's right to choose their child's school. But 69 percent opposed allowing students to attend private schools at taxpayer expense.

Black respondents in the Murphy Commission survey were more adamantly in favor of state-financed choice programs than white participants were.

Eighty-nine percent of black participants responded positively when asked, "Should low income parents whose children are in poorly performing or unsafe schools be provided state funds in the form of a grant so that their children can attend another school, be it public, private or religious?" Fifty-five percent of whites responded positively to the same question.

Asked whether Arkansas should "adopt a law allowing children in poorly performing schools to attend another school — be it public, private or religious — at state expense," 41 percent of whites questioned said yes, as did almost 77 percent of blacks.

Another question asked, "Do you think that parents should have the option of sending their children to the school of their choice — either public, private or religious — rather than to the school to which they are assigned?" Eighty-seven percent of whites and 90 percent of blacks said yes.

The study has a 4.8 percent margin of error. Forty-seven percent of those responding have had children enrolled in public schools within the past five years. About 3 percent had children in private schools and about 5 percent had children in both public and private.

"We wanted to be totally up front with our questions. In fact, we asked the parental choice

question of the Arkansas Policy Foundation, which initiated the Murphy Commission and which has advocated state-funded tuition for private schools. "The percentages do vary some according to the way you phrase questions, but I think you still get a relatively high degree of support regardless of how you word it."

Watson said the commission is considering conducting a second survey of black Arkansans to ensure that the first study's results are valid. Of the survey participants, 13.5 percent were black, compared to 16 percent in the overall Arkansas population. Eighty-five percent of the respondents were white, compared to 83 percent in the overall state population.

Jack T. "Steve" Stephens, co-chairman of the Murphy Commission's education group, expressed confidence in the survey results.

"Parents in Arkansas, by substantial majority, want school choice," Stephens said. "They want the ability to choose for their child where he or she goes to school. The majority is so substantial that even at the lowest number, political careers have been built on much less."

Gene Wilhoit, director of the state Department of Education, was unavailable Thursday to comment on the latest survey. Gayle Morris, a department spokesman, had not talked with Wilhoit about the issues involved and declined to comment.

The Education Department spent \$25,000 last year on a more extensive Gallup survey of 1,002 Arkansans on education. On the school choice issue, that survey asked, "Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at public expense?"

Twenty-eight percent of white respondents said they favored the idea, as did 22 percent of black respondents.

The Murphy Commission's education work group intends to use its survey results as a first step toward producing a series of reports focusing on eight key areas of state education reform — academic standards, countering union influence, parental choice, charter schools, restructuring the Education Department, integrating support and administrative services in school districts to achieve cost savings, legal barriers to reform, and technology issues related to education.

The work group hopes to make its recommendations by the end of the year.

Other results drawn from the Murphy Commission survey:

■ 52 percent of respondents rated Arkansas teachers as good or exceptional.

■ 56 percent said they would favor reducing school administrative costs by having only one school superintendent per county without consolidating or eliminating any schools, which could free more funds for local classrooms.

■ 47 percent of respondents said Arkansas' public schools have moved away from stressing basic academic subjects.

■ 76 percent said schools should not lower or relax tough academic