

Talking Points
Meeting With Mayor Daley and Members of Chicago
School Board

1. Acknowledgements:

- Mayor Richard Daley,
- Gary Chico, President of Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees
- Paul Vallas, Chief Executive Officer (Superintendent of Schools)

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2. As you know, education is one of my highest priorities, and one of the nation's highest priorities. In this next term, I will work hard to:

- Opening doors to college through HOPE Scholarships \$10,000 Tax Deductions, IRA's for education, expansion of Pell Grants;
- Providing adults who need it with job training opportunities through the G.I. Bill;
- Improving the nation's elementary and secondary schools, by:
 - helping every child learn to read independently by 3rd grade
 - computers in every classroom, wiring all schools to Internet, and helping every 8th grader log onto Internet
 - expanding public school choice and creating 3,000 charter schools

3. I have been following the dramatic education reform steps you have taken here in Chicago. I am particularly impressed with your efforts to:

- **dramatically reduce the central office bureaucracy and drive more resources to the schools**
- **instituting tough accountability measures:**
 - **requiring students to pass tests in order to be promoted,**
 - **placing 109 schools on "academic probation" because their students weren't performing up to standards**

4. I am also pleased to note that the school board tonight will select the first charter schools, which will open in the Fall. I believe charter schools can be a very effective way of promoting grass roots innovation while maintaining accountability for results.

5. I am interested in learning first hand about your reform efforts, and look forward to hearing from each of you.