

What the President Should Say ABOUT Goals 2000

It is important that the President talk about Goals 2000 in his education speech(es), to demonstrate his resolve in the face of controversy, and to provide help and ammunition to its many supporters. At the same time, he should not personally involve himself in the details of the debate, or directly take on the opposition.

We believe the best way to do this would be to highlight positive examples of local practices which reflect the broader education themes the President will highlight (e.g., technology, charter schools), and point out that these are (1) locally generated from the bottom up, funded by Goals 2000 funds, not conducted at the direction of federal officials, and good for kids.

- o In Center County Pennsylvania, Goals 2000 funds helped some 350 students in an area Vocational Technical School learn about the skills they will need in order to get jobs in nearby plants. Local businesses, including major employers such as Corning and Jostens opened their work sites so that students could observe and talk with employees on the factory and industrial shop floors. As a result of these visits, students came to understand that the math and science concepts taught in school are actually used in the manufacturing processes they observed first-hand.
- o In Carroll County Maryland more than 200 disadvantaged students received an additional six weeks of instruction over the summer, designed to meet their particular learning needs. The instruction featured academic enrichment activities as well as special weekend and evening activities that promote parental involvement in the student's learning.
- o In Fitchburg Massachusetts Goals 2000 funds have supported the creation of the Science Mathematics Integrated Learning Lab for Excellence (SMILE), located at the planetarium in the Fitchburg Community Center. In addition to providing new learning opportunities for students, parents and community members outside the schools, SMILE also serves as regional professional development center for teachers, involving neighboring school districts, Fitchburg State College, and related activities funded by the National Science Foundation and the Eisenhower Professional Development Program.

- o At the Second Street School in Frankfort, Kentucky, Goals 2000 is used to promote parental involvement in their children's learning. Goals 2000 funds support a series of "enrichment weeks" during which students in grades 5-8 and their families are invited to attend special after-school classes together. A school with a year-round schedule and 3-week breaks spread throughout the year, Second Street holds these classes during the breaks when school is otherwise not in session. Classes are held from 4:00-10:00 p.m, with parents joining after the work-day.

The first week-long session this fall will be focused on astronomy. As a partner in this project, the University of Louisville is providing instructional materials and will loan each family a telescope. Students will also have use of laptop computers for conducting research and communicating with NASA engineers via the Internet.

- o The Hardin County Kentucky Schools use Goals 2000 funds to help parents learn to help their elementary and middle school students use technology in home learning activities. To do this, the school system uses a combination of live, interactive computer classes (broadcast via the local cable community/education network), specially developed computer software and handbooks, and access to computers, cable television and telephone lines in the schools. Because of the partnership with local cable operators, the computer classes have the potential of reaching 30,000 homes.
- o In Township High School District, Illinois, student performance data showed that students with limited-English skills were having difficulty learning history and other social science, particularly because of reading difficulties. Goals 2000 funds are being used to help address this problem, by enabling the school district to produce a booklet for teachers on the most effective instructional practices, develop curriculum materials that address the needs of limited-English proficient students, and providing professional development workshops for their teachers.
- o In Springfield (Illinois) School District 186, Goals 2000 funds provided teams from 15 schools, each made up of four teachers and their administrators, with six weeks of intensive training in the district's Project LINCOLN, its own approach to using technology throughout the curriculum. Teams spent approximately half of the time working in school teams to develop new curriculum units and school-wide improvement plans. This approach had previously been developed and tested at the Lincoln School, and Goals 2000 funds enabled this success to be spread to other schools within the district. Without the Goals 2000 funds, training would have been limited to only a few days.

Q & A

1. Mr. President, will you support the amendments to Goals 2000 offered by Senator Specter?

A: I know that Sen. Specter is making a good faith effort to make it easier for New Hampshire to participate in Goals 2000, even though he supports Goals 2000 as it is--without changes. If his package of amendments is taken up by the Congress, I will take a very serious look at them.

2. Mr. President, Goals 2000 has led to the development of the distorted U.S. history standards. This is why we can't trust the federal government to be involved in our schools.

A: These standards are not part of Goals 2000, and no school or state has to use them if they participate in Goals 2000. They were developed under a grant awarded by the previous Administration--by Lynn Chaney when she was Director of the National Endowment of the Humanities and Lamar Alexander when he was U.S. Secretary of Education. This was not our grant, these are not our standards, and they are not my view of what children ought to learn about history.

3. National standards

4. federal role/federal intrusion

5. good things happening as a result of goals 2000

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(Use examples drawn from below which best reflect education themes President is highlighting in his speech) Then add:

All of these examples have several things in common. First, they are exciting--they demonstrate the potential in every school to open new doors for learning for students and their parents. This potential exists in every school here in New Hampshire and throughout the country.

Second, they are home grown--developed by people in each school and community responding to their own needs, and focused on improved learning for their students.

Third, they will make a difference--they can lead to more parental involvement, better teaching and more learning.

Fourth, they are all being supported by funds from the federal Goals 2000 program--which provides federal support for grass roots, local reforms. Local communities provided the inspiration and dedication, while the federal government provided the funds to spark action.

Fifth, no federal official came in and told them what they had to do. Despite what you have heard so often here in New Hampshire, there is no federal intrusion that comes along with Goals 2000.

I am confident that parents, teachers, principals and local school boards here in New Hampshire are every bit as dedicated and as imaginative as those in the communities I have just described. It is unfortunate that local communities here in New Hampshire have been denied access to these resources, and that local communities have been denied the chance to decide for themselves whether to take advantage of them. You deserve better than that.

- o In Center County Pennsylvania, Goals 2000 funds helped some 350 students in an area Vocational Technical School learn about the skills they will need in order to get jobs in nearby plants. Local businesses, including major employers such as Corning and Jostens opened their work sites so that students could observe and talk with employees on the factory and industrial shop floors. As a result of these visits, students came to understand that the math and science concepts taught in school are actually used in the manufacturing processes they observed first-hand.
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- o At Estes Elementary School in Owensboro Kentucky, parents and their 4th grade students are working together to help students learn to write. The 4th graders are teaching their parents to use computers, while the parents help children with their writing. And the school loans families laptop computers so parents and their children can work together, and helps parents learn to evaluate and encourage their children's writing. Goals 2000 funds were used to purchase the computers and modems for home-school use.
- o In Ashland Kentucky, Goals 2000 funds are being used in the Roosevelt-Perry Elementary Schools to produce and broadcast 30 minute television shows over the local cable system, so that parents can see what their students are being taught, learn more about school activities, and learn how to use

technology to open learning opportunities for their youngsters.

Possible Presidential Goals 2000 Events

1. Maryland Education Summit

- January 18-19 in Greenbelt, Maryland.
- Audience: 240 educators, parents, business leaders from every school district in the state
- Opportunity for the President: Maryland is a leading-edge state in setting high standards and using Goals 2000 funds for better education, and last month announced significant gains in student achievement. This would be an opportunity for the President to highlight the success of this approach to education reform, which is the basis for Goals 2000.
- Best time for Presidential appearance: Noon on Friday, Jan. 19

2. Announcement of Texas Ed-Flex Award

- January 29 in Austin Texas (date and location to be confirmed).
- Audience: Statewide conference of some 1,500 school administrators.
- Participants: Gov. Bush, Democratic and Republican state legislators, possibly Rep.'s Gene Green (D.) and Henry Bonilla (R.).
- Opportunity for the President: Texas will be designated as 1 of 6 Ed-Flex states, which means that the state education agency will be able to waive statutory and regulatory requirements in selected federal education programs. Participation in Ed-Flex is a result of Texas' participation in Goals 2000. Texas is using Goals 2000 funds to focus on improving reading at the 4th grade. At this event, the President can (1) highlight the Administration's commitment to promoting flexibility, deregulation and accountability for results, (2) highlight Goals 2000 for promoting improved reading achievement; and, (3) demonstrate bipartisan support for Goals 2000 and education reform.

3. Goals 2000 and Charter Schools

- Massachusetts and Michigan are the 2 states using Goals 2000 funds to support charter schools.
- Event would most likely be a visit to a charter school.
- Could be scheduled at any time.

4. Release of National Science Standards

- To be released by National Academy of Science.
- The release was originally scheduled for Jan. 9, but will be rescheduled for sometime in March.

5. Televised Town Meeting

- Nationally televised Presidential town meeting on education--emphasizing raising standards as key to improving education
 - Feature (diverse types of) students who have worked to high standards, including examples of their work

- Primary message--all kids can work to more challenging standards
- Recognize examples of challenging state and local standards
- Feature business, community and education leaders
- Feature Gov's (e.g., Roy Romer, Tommy Thompson) and members of Congress (e.g., Kennedy, Jeffords) on bipartisan basis--common ground theme
- Must occur before IBM/NGA summit in late March
- Could be kick-off of media campaign on standards