



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## President Bush Proposes Further Expansion of Education Choice

Building upon the enactment of last year's bipartisan *No Child Left Behind* Act (H.R. 1), President Bush announced today that his FY 2003 budget will include a proposal to offer education tax credits to parents with children in chronically failing schools.

With the expansion of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and the enactment of the *No Child Left Behind* reform bill -- which includes public school choice and supplemental service options for children trapped in struggling schools -- the President's proposal would further empower parents to make the right decisions for their children's future.

Specifically, the education tax credit proposal would make up to \$2,500 available for parents with children in failing schools to use for tuition, books, computers, and other uses to enhance their children's education. For low-income parents, it could mean the difference between keeping a child trapped in a failing school that refuses to change, or sending a child to a better-achieving school that offers hope.

In the hands of caring parents, information and choice are powerful tools for education reform. Congress should build on last year's bipartisan effort by taking further action in 2002 to expand education choice for parents with children trapped in chronically failing schools.

### Message of the Day

**America should be a land of equal education opportunity.**

- ❑ *Regardless of income or other factors, parents with children in chronically failing schools should be able to choose the best possible school for their children.*
- ❑ *No child should be forced to remain trapped in a school that will not teach and will not change.*
- ❑ *The President's plan offers new hope to students in chronically failing schools, and represent another important step toward equal education opportunity in America.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The education tax credit proposal is based on successful programs in several states. Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota each offer tax credits or deductions for tuition.
- The President's FY 2003 budget also includes \$200 million to stimulate the growth of charter schools, another alternative for parents with children trapped in failing schools. The budget request would support approximately 1,800 new and existing charter schools.
- The Education Department estimates that 4.5 million children are trapped in substandard schools.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Low-income parents in disadvantaged communities with failing schools should have the same education choices that affluent parents have. Giving parents this choice will broaden the escape route for students trapped in failing schools. It will also energize the public education system and spur struggling schools to succeed."* -- **Education & the Workforce Chairman John Boehner (R-OH), February 4, 2002**