



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## Bush Reform Proposal Will Improve Teacher Quality

The centerpiece of President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* education reform plan is giving states and local school districts more flexibility in spending federal funding while holding them accountable for increasing student performance.

A key component of the flexibility/accountability exchange applies to teacher quality. H.R. 1 streamlines the Eisenhower Professional Development and Class Size Reduction programs and provides grants to states and local school districts to recruit, hire, and train high quality teachers.

While the overarching goal of H.R. 1 is to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers, the guiding principle that underpins the Bush plan is that different schools have different needs. As long as schools can demonstrate that they are increasing student achievement, the federal government should give them leeway in how they spend federal funding.

Some schools need more teachers; they will be able use their teacher quality grants to recruit and hire qualified educators. Other schools, however, already may have enough teachers; they may use the same grant to boost their teachers' salaries or for professional development programs. H.R. 1 thus ensures that the federal education bureaucracy does not hamstring local schools.

### Message of the Day

**Different schools have different needs. The federal bureaucracy should not hamstring local schools from addressing their own unique needs.**

- *H.R. 1 allows local schools to spend federal grants on their most pressing educational needs.*
- *The No Child Left Behind bill gives states and school districts an increase in funds to recruit and train high quality teachers.*
- *In return, they will be held accountable for ensuring that students are taught by effective teachers.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- As of 1998, according to the Education Department, approximately 3.1 million elementary and secondary teachers were employed in the nation (up 17 percent from 1988).
- According to the Public Agenda Foundation, more than 63 percent of education professors say that their programs often fail to prepare teachers for the challenge of real-world teaching.
- More than half of history and physics teachers in the United States hold neither majors nor minors in those fields. (*Chester E. Finn Jr. and Marci Kanstroom, Public Interest, Summer 2000*)

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Of all the problems plaguing the nation's schools today, ill-prepared teachers arguably top the list."* Nina Rees and Jacqueline Curnette, *Heritage Foundation Backgrounder*, July 19, 1999