



# 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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## Private School Choice Gives New Hope to Low Income Students

H.R. 1 provides parents with new options for their children, including **immediate public school choice**, as well as the right to choose supplemental educational services -- including tutoring from private, faith-based providers -- after three years of chronic failure.

These changes represent a significant departure from the status quo and will empower low-income parents with new options and new choices. They represent an important step toward equal educational opportunity in America -- but not by any means the final step.

The **House today will consider two amendments**, one offered by Education & the Workforce Chairman John Boehner and other House leaders to restore private school choice to the bill, and another by Majority Leader Dick Armey, Majority Whip Tom DeLay, Conference Chairman J.C. Watts, and Rep. Bill Lipinski to research the effectiveness of school choice programs.

It's common knowledge that we already have school choice in this country -- except for poor children. Suburban parents are more likely to have the financial means to send their children to private schools. But low-income parents can't afford this option.

H.R. 1 expands choices for parents, but we need to expand it even further by giving parents the option of private school choice. This was part of the President's original plan and while far from the only part, it's an important part.

### Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind empowers parents with new options and offers hope to students in failing schools.***

- *H.R. 1 extends unprecedented new opportunities to children in chronically failing schools.*
- *Restoring private school choice will make this good bill even better.*
- *School choice gives parents the tools they need to decide what's right for their children's educational future, regardless of income.*
- *No child should be forced to remain trapped in a school that will not teach and will not change.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 requires states and school districts to prepare annual report cards on their schools to better inform parents about the quality of their child's school.
- The bill gives low-performing schools the chance to improve by offering them financial and technical assistance to improve and increase student achievement.
- The President's plan establishes a rigorous system of rewards and sanctions for states to hold them accountable for increasing student achievement.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"[S]chool choice is not simply an accountability issue, it is a moral and civil rights issue. It is about empowering poor parents with the option of a better education when their children are trapped in schools that repeatedly fail to meet basic standards."* **William J. Bennett, Los Angeles Times, May 4, 2001**