



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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## Education Bill Would Give Parents Powerful New Options

The H.R. 1 education reform bill being finalized in Congress includes an historic provision that would let federal Title I funds flow to private educational providers -- including faith-based and religiously-affiliated providers -- as a means of ensuring that children in failing public schools have the chance to learn. It would mean immediate new options for thousands of low-income children, and would help pave the way for true school choice and equal educational opportunity in America.

Under the proposed bill, Title I funds would, for the first time ever, be used to allow parents to obtain private supplemental educational services -- including tutoring, after-school services, and summer school programs. Private, church-related and religiously-affiliated providers would be among those eligible to provide supplemental services to disadvantaged students.

Never before have federal Title I funds been permitted to flow directly to private, faith-based educational providers. "When signed into law, it will mark the second major federal victory this year for the principle of parental choice in education," write the Lexington Institute's Don Soifer and Robert Holland in this morning's *Washington Times*. (The President signed expanded Coverdell education savings accounts into law in June.)

A congressional analysis estimates students attending nearly 3,000 underachieving public schools nationwide would be eligible for supplemental services immediately. These students would have the new options in time for the upcoming 2002-03 school year. The provision is another important step toward equal educational opportunity in America.

### Message of the Day

**Low-income students in failing public schools deserve the chance to learn.**

- *The proposal put forth by education conference leaders would provide immediate new private-sector options to thousands of students across America.*
- *The proposal would allow federal Title I funds to flow to private educational providers - including faith-based and religiously-affiliated providers - for the first time in history.*
- *Parents would be able to obtain quality educational services such as tutoring, after-school services, and summer school for children who have no options today.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The proposed final conference report would provide significant new options for any student in a public school already identified as failing under the terms of the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Title I portability is an important precedent on the road to private school choice. Never before have federal Title I funds been allowed to follow students to private educational providers.
- The proposal would also allow students in dangerous schools, as well as students who are victims of a crime, to go to a safe public or charter school.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"It's a first step toward choice, and they (Republicans) ought to claim it as a victory."* -- U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) on Title I portability for supplemental educational services, USA Today, April 6, 2001