



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Students in Thousands of Schools Get Immediate New Options

The final version of H.R. 1, the *No Child Left Behind* education reform bill, would bring **immediate new options to students in thousands of failing public schools across the United States** for the upcoming school year, a new report by congressional staff finds. The reforms would help to pave the way for full parental choice in education.

“This is an important step toward equal educational opportunity in America,” said Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), chairman of the House-Senate education conference panel that produced the final agreement. “It would expand choices for the parents of students in thousands of failing schools, and give them new options they can use immediately.”

An analysis of Education Department data by House Education committee majority staff finds that **students at nearly 3,000 underachieving public schools nationwide will be eligible for new options under the supplemental services provision during the first school year following enactment of the bill (2002-03)**. Moreover, it suggests that students at 6,729 schools will be eligible for immediate public school choice in 2002.

Under the final H.R. 1 conference report, parents with children in thousands of schools already identified as failing under the terms of the 1994 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) authorization will have immediate new options, including access to supplemental services. These options will take effect immediately, and can be put to use for students in the 2002-03 school year, beginning next August or September. This provision is designed to address concerns about possible delays in helping children trapped in chronically failing schools.

Message of the Day

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

- *The education conference agreement would provide immediate new options to thousands of students across America.*
- *The proposal would allow federal Title I funds to flow to private educational providers -- including faith-based providers -- for the first time in history.*
- *Parents with children in failing schools would also be given public school choice, including the right to choose a better-performing charter school, as soon as a school is identified as failing.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The final conference agreement 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

“The conference agreement will ensure that no child in America is left behind through historic education reforms based on real accountability, unprecedented flexibility for states and school districts, greater local control, more options for parents, and more funding for what works.” -- **President George W. Bush, December 11, 2001**