

# *The Education Report*

*A weekly report of public policy issues in American Education from*

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**May 3, 2002**

**Wellstone to Bush:  
“You Can’t Achieve the Goal of Leaving No Child Behind  
On a Tin Cup Budget”**

Yesterday, Congressional Democrats, led by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), held a press conference to criticize the Bush Administration’s fiscal support of education. The hour-long press conference drew a crowd of approximately 100, a number that according to Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) would have been a lot bigger if the conference had not been moved inside due to rain. The tone of the conference was set early with an angry Kennedy claiming that the President’s lackluster support for education was “wrong for our national priorities.” Representative George Miller (D-CA) expressed the common belief that the Administration is falling behind on the promise to make sure that No Child is Left Behind, stating that a 2.8 percent increase in education funding is not enough to live up to the commitment signed into law early this year.

The conference also served as an introduction to “Slamming Shut the Doors to College,” a congressional report prepared by Democratic staff members on various committees. This report critiques the effects that the Bush Administration’s budget will have on access to college. In a time where college tuition is rising due to the lack of state support, many lower and middle-income Americans need outside help to afford college. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration is looking the other way. Democrats feel that lowering the maximum Pell Grant award to \$3,900, proposing that college students pay a variable rate on their consolidated loans, and failing to provide increased federal support to ensure that tuition prices are not disproportionately increased are examples of the President’s failure to support education. This failure is going to make it nearly impossible for many lower and middle-income families to afford a college education.

Many feel that investing in education is the best way to invest in our great nation’s future, but as Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) said: “You can’t achieve the goal of leaving no child behind on a Tin-Cup budget.”

Senators Patty Murray (D-WA), Jack Reed (D-RI), and Joe Biden (D-DE) were also in attendance. The report, "Slamming Shut the Doors to College," will be available online at <http://edworkforce.house.gov/democrats/higheredreport.pdf>.

### **Celebration of Charter School Week**

Senior U.S. Department of Education officials celebrated National Charter Schools Week, April 29 to May 3, by visiting charter schools around the country, as part of a national effort to highlight the contributions of charter schools.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of the first charter school. Since then more than 2,400 charter schools have opened in 34 states and the District of Columbia and educate almost 589,000 children.

President Bush's proposed 2003 budget continues his commitment to charter schools, including \$200 million to stimulate the continued growth of charters. Plus, he proposed another \$100 million for a new Credit Enhancement for Charter Schools Facilities Program, which would assist charter schools in acquiring, leasing and renovating school facilities through competitive grants to public and nonprofit entities for loan guarantees, insuring debt and other activities that facilitate private lending.

This week, charter schools hosted open houses. In addition, Department officials visiting various charter schools throughout the country, including some of the following events:

**Monday, April 29, 10 a.m.**

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Gerald Reynolds toured two Orlando charter schools.

**Tuesday, April 30, 8:30 a.m.**

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Susan Neuman visited Roxbury Prep Charter School. Roxbury Prep Charter School, 120 Fisher Avenue, Boston, Mass.

**Wednesday, May 1, 10:30 a.m.**

Under Secretary Gene Hickok visited the Center for the Arts on the State University of New York's (SUNY) Buffalo campus, 103 Center for the Arts, Buffalo, N.Y., where he saw presentations from students at selected charter schools and saw charter school exhibit booths.

**Wednesday, May 1, 9 a.m.**

Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education Carol D'Amico toured the Charter School of Wilmington and saw student performances. Charter School of Wilmington, 100 North DuPont Road, Wilmington, Del. A lunch followed at Terrace Green Hill, 800 N. DuPont Road, Wilmington, Del.

**Wednesday, May 1, 7 p.m.**

Secretary's Regional Representative Mary Jane T. Pearson attended a dinner at the Siena Hotel, One Southlake Street, Reno, Nev., to help recognize exemplary students and teachers with special awards.

**Thursday, May 2, 1:30 p.m.**

Deputy Secretary of Education Bill Hansen toured Center City School, 55 North Redwood Road, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Thursday, May 2, 9 a.m.**

Secretary Rod Paige toured and gave remarks at the D.C. Edison Friendship Collegiate Academy-High School Charter School in Washington, D.C.

**Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m.**

General Counsel Brian Jones spoke at the Los Angeles Public Charter School Symposium, California Science Center-Exposition Park, 700 State Drive, Los Angeles.

**Friday, May 3, 9 a.m.**

Brian Jones visited Odyssey Charter School, 1555 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, Calif.

**Title I Regulations Regional Meetings**

There will be four Education Department regional hearings on Title I Regulations. The meetings will be held in; Cincinnati, OH, Atlanta, GA, San Diego, CA, and Little Rock, AR. The meetings will include public comment as well as presentations by policymakers and experts in standards and assessments. At each gathering, those who served as negotiators will talk about that process and the use of standards and assessments in various communities.

A list of negotiators is available at <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/02-2002/02272002.html>. The meetings will include discussions about standards, their quality and connecting them to instruction, and assessments, covering various types, alignment with standards, and inclusion of all children. Locations for the meetings (all run 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) are as follows:

**Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

The Holiday Cincinnati Airport  
1717 Airport Exchange Blvd.  
Erlanger, KY 41048  
859-371-2233  
Fax-859-371-5002

[www.basshotels.com/hotels/cvgap](http://www.basshotels.com/hotels/cvgap)

**Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

Sheraton Atlanta  
165 Courtland Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-659-6500  
Fax-404-523-9924  
[www.sheratonatlantahotel.com](http://www.sheratonatlantahotel.com)

**Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

The Westgate Hotel  
1055 Second Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-238-1818  
Fax-619-557-3737  
[www.westgatehotel.com](http://www.westgatehotel.com)

**Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

Double Tree Hotel  
424 West Markham  
Little Rock, AR  
501-372-4371  
Fax-501-372-0518  
[www.doubletree.com](http://www.doubletree.com)

**New NCES Publication**

NCES has developed a new publication, "Public School Student, Staff and Graduate Counts by State, School Year 2000-2001". This publication provides information on the number of students enrolled in elementary and secondary public schools in 2000-01 by grad and ethnicity. In addition, the number of staff members that teach, supervise and provide support services are accounted for. Most importantly, the numbers of students who graduated from high schools in 1999-2000 are represented. For more information or to download this report, please visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubinfo.asp?pubid=2002348>.

**President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education**

The 24-member President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education is holding a series of meetings that will culminate with a report recommending reforms for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The site for the first meeting was Houston, TX and it held a March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in San Diego and a March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting in Los Angeles. The remaining meeting will be held May 30-31 in Washington, DC.

**107th CONGRESS, 2nd SESSION**

TENTATIVE SENATE CALENDAR 2002/ NON-LEGISLATIVE PERIODS

**Tom Daschle**, Majority Leader

<b>May 27 - 31</b>	<b>Senate not in session</b>
<b>May 27</b>	<i>Memorial Day (observed)</i>
<b>June 3 (Mon.)</b>	<b>Senate reconvenes</b>
<b>July 1 - 5</b>	<b>Senate not in session</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<i>Independence Day</i>
<b>July 8 (Mon.)</b>	<b>Senate reconvenes</b>
<b>August 5 - September 2</b>	<b>Senate not in session (August Recess)</b>
<b>September 2</b>	<i>Labor Day</i>
<b>September 3 (Tues.)</b>	<b>Senate reconvenes</b>
<b>September 16 (Mon.)</b>	<b>Yom Kippur (NO VOTES)</b>
<b>October 4</b>	<b>Target adjournment</b>