

William J. Clinton

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Date of Birth August 19, 1946

Education B.S. Georgetown University, 1968; J.D. Yale University, 1973

Current Position Founder, William J. Clinton Foundation



Career Highlights

- ❑ Founder, William J. Clinton Foundation
- ❑ President of the United States (1993-2001)
- ❑ Governor of Arkansas (1979-81 & 1983-92)
- ❑ Attorney General of Arkansas (1976-78)

Accomplishments

- ❑ Implemented Goals 2000, an education reform initiative designed to help states establish standards of excellence for all children
- ❑ Increased funding for Head Start 90 percent over 1993 levels and worked to create Early Head Start for children under the age of 3
- ❑ Signed the Reading Excellence Act, which funded grants for the America Reads challenge (1998)
- ❑ Signed reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (1994)
- ❑ Created Arkansas Education Standards Committee (1983)

Biographical Sketch

As governor of Arkansas, William J. Clinton created an Education Standards Committee charged with setting higher standards for the state's schools. In September of 1983, Clinton called for a special session of the state legislature to enact the proposed reforms. The reforms, including higher standards for student achievement, a more equitable funding formula, teacher testing, and the first sales tax increase in twenty-six years designed to fund the plan, passed after the longest special legislative session in Arkansas history.

As President, Clinton presided over the 1994 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which signaled a nationwide commitment to standards-based reform. The reauthorization, also known as the Improving America's Schools Act, required states to develop content and performance standards for K-12 schools. Congress also adopted the notion of "adequate yearly progress." Both of these features became lynchpins of the No Child Left Behind, the 2002 reauthorization of ESEA.

Bill Clinton on 21st century schools

"Now if, if we do these things – end social promotion, turn around failing schools, build modern ones, support qualified teachers, promote innovation, competition and discipline -- then we will begin to meet our generation's historic responsibility to create 21st century schools."

From: State of the Union Address, 1999

Notes

Information collected from the White House website at www.whitehouse.gov and the William J. Clinton Foundation at www.clintonfoundation.org.