

	Results
1.	Bush would pull funds from failing schools; Sees vouchers helping the disadvantaged The Washington Times, September 03, 1999, Friday, Final Edition, PART A; Pg. A1, 904 words, Donald Lambro; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

[Return to List](#)

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

The Washington Times

September 03, 1999, Friday, Final Edition

Bush would pull funds from failing schools; Sees vouchers helping the disadvantaged

BYLINE: Donald Lambro; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SECTION: PART A; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 904 words

Texas Gov. George W. Bush proposed yesterday that federal funds for failing schools that do not improve be redirected through state vouchers to send disadvantaged children to better public or private schools.

"In my administration, federal money will no longer flow to failure," Mr. Bush said in a Los Angeles speech. "Public funds must be spent on things that work."

The additional assistance would total about \$1,500 per year per family and could also be used for tutoring or to attend higher standard charter schools as well as better quality private elementary or secondary schools elsewhere in the state.

Mr. Bush said that he respected the federal government's \$7.7 billion a year Title I program to help improve the education of low income children and would strongly support it.

"But I do not respect poor results with public money," he said.

In the first major public policy address of his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Mr. Bush said it was a national scandal that millions of poor children could not read adequately or were not being taught basic skills to succeed as adults in the work force - especially disadvantaged minorities.

Mr. Bush said that if he becomes president, "We will offer scholarships to America's neediest children, allowing them to get the emergency help they should have. In any case, the federal government will no longer pay schools to cheat poor children."

Mr. Bush also proposed that every federal aid to education program must be required to show results or the money will be shifted to other programs that work. He also called for moving the \$4.4 billion Head Start program out of the Department of Health and Human Services and into the Education Department and requiring it to teach preschoolers early reading skills.

"It is a scandal of the first order when the average test scores of African-American and Latino students at age 17 are roughly the same as white 13-year-olds. Whatever the cause, the effect is discrimination," he told the Latin Business Association in Los Angeles.

"This is a personal tragedy. More and more, we are divided into two nations, separate and unequal. One that reads and one that can't. One that dreams and one that doesn't," Mr. Bush said.

Bush would pull funds from failing schools; Sees vouchers helping the disadvantaged The Washington Times
September 03, 1999, Friday, Final Edition

In a speech titled "**No Child Left Behind**" that focused on the educational problems of low-income children, Mr. Bush said, "We are a nation where a majority of fourth-graders in our cities can't read or understand a simple children's book. Where ninth-graders too often have fourth-grade reading skills."

Mr. Bush proposed that every school receiving Title I funds to help needy schoolchildren should test their students annually. Failing schools whose scores improve would be rewarded with bonus grants. Schools that do not raise their grades would be warned that they have just three years to boost their performance.

"If, at the end of three years, there is still no progress, its Title I funds will be divided up, matched by other federal education money given to the states, and made directly available to parents," he said.

"This money can then be used by students for tutoring, for a charter school, for a working public school in a different district, for a private school - for whatever parents choose. For whatever offers hope," he said.

Mr. Bush's proposals received a positive grade from the Heritage Foundation, which has long promoted the idea of giving parents school vouchers to shop around for the best schools for their children.

"It puts the public schools on notice and says they have three years to turn things around. What he's saying is if your school fails, he would let children take the money and go elsewhere," said Nina Rees, senior education policy analyst at the conservative think tank.

Mr. Bush's proposal, which appears similar to a school voucher law that is being implemented in Florida by his brother, Gov. Jeb Bush, was immediately condemned by the National Education Association.

****BOX

BUSH EDUCATION IDEAS

Education policy proposals announced yesterday by Texas Gov. George W. Bush:

EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

- * Require federal education programs to produce results or be replaced.
- * Reform the Office of Education Research and Improvement to more accurately rate and measure effectiveness of state education programs.

HEAD START:

- * Transfer the administration of Head Start from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Education.
- * Require Head Start to adopt a standard "proven core curriculum" identified by the federal government.
- * Award Head Start contracts on a competitive basis and evaluate each program for renewal based on performance.

TITLE I:

- * Focus the program on younger grades. Students in kindergarten through grade 12 will remain eligible, but the focus will be on elementary grades.
- * Hold schools accountable for Title I students' performance by:
 - Rewarding states with highest achievement among Title I student with additional funding.
 - Giving poorly performing schools three years to make progress.
 - Allowing students to transfer to more acceptable schools if there is no improvement after three years.
 - Making funds "portable" by giving parents a share of Title I funds, matched by an equal amount from the state, to pay for the school of their choice or supplemental education service.

Source: Bush presidential campaign

LOAD-DATE: September 3, 1999

Bush would pull funds from failing schools; Sees vouchers helping the disadvantaged The Washington Times
September 03, 1999, Friday, Final Edition

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo, GOP presidential hopeful George W. Bush gets a warm welcome at Bennett-Kew Elementary School in Inglewood, Calif., yesterday., By AP ; Box, BUSH EDUCATION IDEAS, By The Washington Times

Copyright 1999 The Washington Times LLC
All Rights Reserved