

SPECIAL REPORT

Executive Agendas

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STORIES BY ALAN RICHARD



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY HECTOR EMANUEL



Most governors start out each year by outlining their goals and staking out political agendas. Education is often at the top of those lists. An extensive review of the governors' 2005 records finds that some were more ambitious—and successful—than others at converting those education plans into policy.

Governors are focusing much of their attention on two critical areas of education policy—high school and preschool—a 50-state look at the nation's governors and their leadership on education over the past year shows.

At least 22 governors proposed significant policies last year aimed at improving high schools, or have made such proposals so far in 2006, *Education Week* found in preparing this special report. At least 20 governors began last year or have initiated in current legislative sessions pushes to expand prekindergarten for 4-year-olds or other early-childhood programs.

Several other topics drew the interest of governors in 2005, including incentive pay or other changes in teacher compensation, school choice, school- and district-level consolidation, child nutrition, and educational technology.

Even as the federal No Child Left Behind Act is reshaping much of the landscape of American education, the states—through their chief executives as well as their legislatures—retain the most significant role in setting policy. This snapshot of governors' agendas for education, and their successes and setbacks in achieving those goals, underscores that role.

Education Week's report comes as 36 of the 50 states are gearing up to elect governors this fall. For incumbents seeking re-election, and for their would-be successors, education seems likely to be a top issue—especially in states worried about corporate cutbacks and economic challenges from overseas.

The governors ended 2005 with mixed records on gaining legislative approval for their high school and

preschool plans. They also used executive action, formed blue-ribbon panels, and worked through state school boards to push their agendas.

While many governors who proposed high school policy changes have seen only some of their ideas enacted into law or added to state regulations, they have found more success—albeit incremental—in expanding preschool and other early-childhood programs. Governors in more than a dozen states pushed through expansions of preschool or related policy changes in 2005.

Policy experts who monitor states' efforts on high schools and preschool are pleased in general with the leadership they see from state chief executives. But many also believe governors can push harder for efforts to help more students finish high school and make their way into college and career opportunities, while also making it easier for all of the nation's 4-year-olds—and younger children as well—to have access to prekindergarten and related services.

Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, the chairman of the National Gover-

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A special report funded by
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nors Association, said that last year's National Education Summit on High Schools provided the inspiration and direction for his colleagues to return home and get their states working on improving secondary-level learning.

"Most governors went back to their states and looked very hard at high schools," the Republican said during the NGA's winter forum in Washington last month. "The result is, kids are going to get a better high school education."

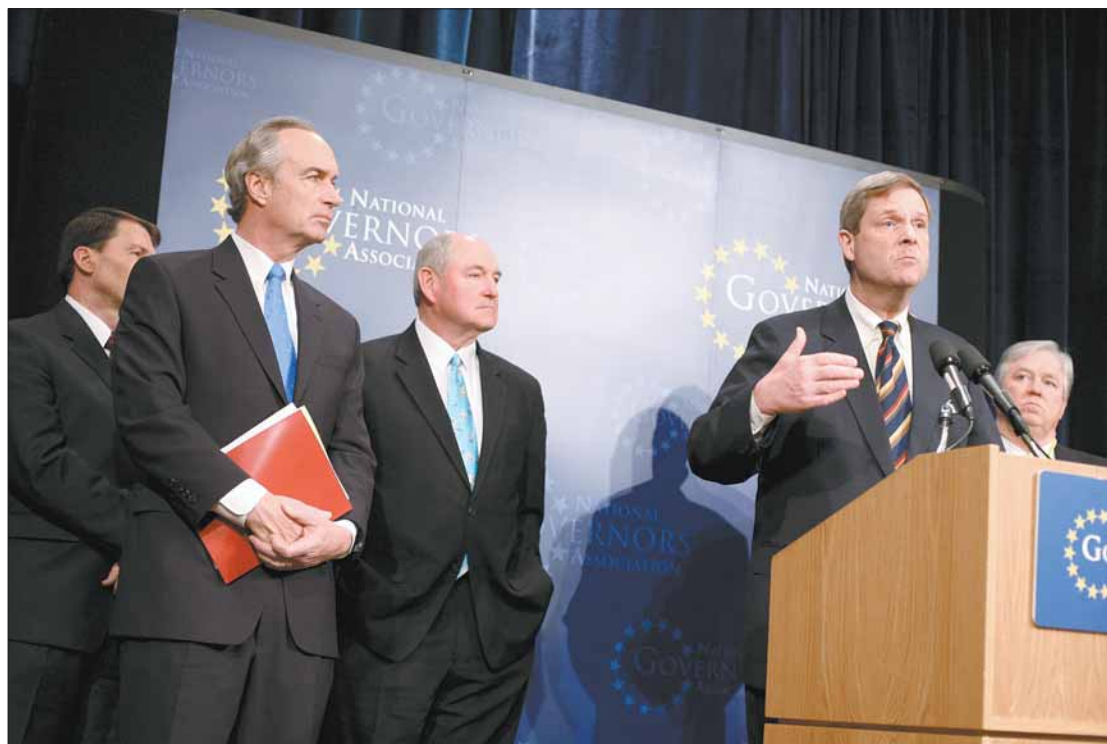
The governors' high school plans are taking many forms.

An extensive review of governors' education agendas for 2005 shows that many of the chief executives want to provide more help for their states' lowest-rated high schools, make more merit- and needs-based scholarships available for college, create more small high schools, add online-learning opportunities, and offer more help to students who struggle with exit exams.

Few states have done as much to try retooling high schools as North Carolina.

Concerns over the preparation of future workers and college students fuels interest in high school policies.

Gov. Michael F. Easley, a Democrat, told fellow governors at the NGA's winter forum of his state's efforts to open smaller high schools that link students more closely with college preparation and career training. Twenty-two such schools—often schools within schools, or



Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, speaking at the National Governors' Association winter forum in February, won passage in 2005 of \$21 million in new spending on early-childhood programs—about half of what he had sought. The theme continues to be one of his top priorities. With him, from left, are Govs. Michael Rounds of South Dakota, Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, Sonny Perdue of Georgia, and Haley Barbour of Mississippi.

schools that meet on college campuses—will open in North Carolina in fall 2006.

"Every time I bring in a new company, ... it will be somebody who requests at least an [associate's] degree" for most workers, Gov. Easley noted.

Several governors also are showing an interest in improving student data so that states can more carefully monitor graduation rates and each student's academic status, said Stefanie Sanford, the deputy advocacy director for national initiatives for the Seattle-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation is providing grants to states to help them improve high school education.

"High school reform isn't just a discussion for the education community. It actually is a vital link to the economic vitality" of the United States, she added.

For example, Oregon lawmakers backed Democratic Gov. Theodore R. Kulongoski's plan last year to finance the creation of an integrated K-16 data system to track students' performance throughout their academic careers.

Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida contends that high schools must be a focus because their success hasn't matched that of the early grades. "The strategy for high school is to make sure the crop of high schoolers coming in are more equipped to take on that work," the Republican said in an interview. "We need middle school reform as well."

Improvements in high school and clearer paths to college and career training are becoming more embedded in state policy, so that such changes survive elections, said Matthew Gandal, the executive vice president of Achieve Inc. The Washington-based nonprofit group,

formed by governors and business leaders, works to boost graduation rates and improve college and career access.

State and federal accountability measures also should require improved graduation rates, based on more dependable data, Mr. Gandal said. "College- and work-readiness is not a factor in most high school accountability systems," he said.

Along those lines, Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, a Republican, signed a bill last year requiring the state board of education to establish statewide formulas for calculating dropout, graduation, student-mobility, and promotion rates.

Former Gov. Mark Warner of Virginia, a Democrat who led last year's high school summit as the NGA chairman, said he was pleased to see governors taking action to improve education at that level of schooling. The hard work has just begun, he added, especially on improving graduation rates. "The dropout issue is one that I think needs much more attention," he said.

The expansion of preschool and other programs in early-childhood education also continues to be a priority for many governors. But new programs for 4-year-olds who aren't now in the system require more classroom space, state

'Education Governor' Is a Relative Term

Which of the 50 governors can claim to be a true "education governor"?

Just about all of them, since virtually every governor at some point singles out education as his or her No. 1 policy issue.

Several governors made just such statements in their 2005 State of the State addresses. Some of them moved beyond such general declarations to specific school proposals, a reminder that governors have the capacity to be the leading K-12 education policymakers in their states.

The truth is, defining what constitutes an education governor depends on how you slice the state leaders' accomplishments.

The nation's governors, a 50-state review by *Education Week* shows, fell into three general categories in 2005: those who proposed a lot of new ideas for K-12 education, those who focused on selling one or two big education proposals to legislatures or the voters, and those who concentrated on other policy areas.

A majority of governors proposed spending increases for K-12 schools in 2005 and again are pushing for such hikes in 2006, mostly because of escalating health-insurance costs for school districts and modest bump-ups in teacher salaries. Those costs alone can raise state education budgets by several percentage points.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a Republican who will wrap up his eight-year tenure next January, was among those who proposed several education policy changes, with victories on a few. He won more literacy training for teachers and money for the state's first universal prekindergarten for 4-year-olds. But he failed to push through a referendum to scale back his state's class-size limits and for reading coaches in all middle schools.

In 2006, he began pressing lawmakers to allow a statewide vote on a constitutional amendment preserving private school vouchers for thousands of students, after the state supreme court overturned one of the state's voucher programs early this year.

Some others who proposed lots of education ideas in 2005: Democrats Rod R. Blagojevich of Illinois, Tom Vilsack of Iowa, and James E. Doyle of Wisconsin; and Republicans Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, Haley Barbour of Mississippi, Matt Blunt of Missouri, Donald L. Carcieri of Rhode Island, and Jon Huntsman Jr. of Utah.

With the exceptions of Gov. Blunt and Gov. Huntsman, the governors who tended not to see many of their long lists of ideas pass dealt with at least one legislative chamber controlled by the opposing political party.

For instance, Gov. Romney hasn't exactly found a receptive audience for offering teacher performance-based pay or providing low-cost laptop computers to all middle schoolers in his state, where Democrats resistant to his ideas outnumbered Republicans in the legislature last year by more than 6-to-1.

Gov. Barbour's modestly priced plan to improve education

About This Report

This *Education Week* special report offers a detailed look at the leadership of governors in shaping their states' education agendas through legislation, regulatory action, public involvement, and proposal or endorsement of ballot measures.

The 50-state table reflects the highlights of each governor's 2005 education proposals, the outcomes from that year—including the final actions from year-

round legislative sessions—and updates on the governors' 2006 agendas and re-election status.

The information in the state-by-state table was gathered during interviews by *Education Week* with governors' education advisers and other staff members, with legislative-staff members, and through analyses of state budgets and other state government documents.



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'Let Our Minds Be Bold'



KURT M. LANDGRAF,
PRESIDENT & CEO, ETS

Justice Louis Brandeis once counseled that in addressing tough policy problems, we must "let our minds be bold." When it comes to preparing today's high school students for college-level coursework, a willingness to think boldly can't come soon enough, as American competitiveness cannot survive current trends.

Nearly two-thirds of the jobs in today's labor market require at least some postsecondary education. Yet high school students are lagging. According to the National Governors Association, approximately 40 percent of students in four-year postsecondary institutions take at least one remedial math or reading course; among community college students, it's 63 percent.

The costs are staggering. The NGA estimates that "deficits in basic skills" cost colleges, businesses, and underprepared high school graduates some \$16 billion annually in productivity and remedial work.

Fortunately, many states are heeding Brandeis' injunction to think boldly, and are embracing his observation that a state can "serve as a laboratory" of innovation. They're implementing tougher core curriculums, tightening high school graduation requirements, and integrating their primary, secondary and postsecondary systems to better coordinate statewide policy and practice.

Dual-enrollment programs are a good example. They prepare high school students for postsecondary work by allowing them to take college-level courses. Some

states, such as Illinois, also offer students financial incentives for dual enrollment, encouraging them to reach higher while easing the burden on families.

An outstanding initiative is California's Early Assessment Program, a collaboration between California State University and California's K-12 system. High school juniors who pass the EAP's math or English tests are exempt from state university placement exams. Those who don't pass have their senior year to improve.

States are expanding their Advanced Placement programs as well. Some, such as Texas, also offer teachers a financial incentive to train for and teach AP classes. At the federal level, President Bush has proposed expanding the AP/International Baccalaureate Program among low-income students to improve math and science education.

Universities' community outreach programs, such as the City University of New York's College Now and Columbia University's Double Discovery Center, also help prepare local minority and low-income students for higher education.

Creative efforts like these reflect the bold thinking Brandeis extolled. At ETS, we're working on our part, too. We're listening to educators, parents and policymakers. We're learning from sound research. And we're leading the effort to achieve both informed public policy and informed educational practice.

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didn't pass in 2005, though he has brought it back in 2006.

Some governors have found ways to compromise with lawmakers from opposing parties.

Gov. Vilsack persuaded Iowa lawmakers to approve several of his early-childhood programs. Gov. Pawlenty had luck with his incentive-pay plan for teachers.

After deadlocking on the voucher issue last year, Gov. Doyle, a Democrat, recently agreed to an expansion of the Milwaukee voucher program—but only if Wisconsin's GOP lawmakers will provide more money to reduce class sizes in public schools and require testing and accreditation in private schools that accept the vouchers.

In Virginia, former Gov. Mark Warner, a Democrat whose term ended in January and who is said to be considering a run for president, said in an interview that he worked with the Republican-controlled legislature by assuring lawmakers that record-high levels of new spending on schools would be accompanied by strong academic-accountability measures and programs such as financial audits to help districts run more efficiently.

"You can build broad, bipartisan coalitions in terms of support for education if you have significant accountability," Mr. Warner said. "Don't just stand there at the press conference, but come back and visit the schools and make sure the policy is being implemented, and follow up."

A number of other governors chose to focus on one or two specific proposals for K-12 education in 2005. Some of them counted the year as a success; others fared less well. Among those with focused school agendas were Republicans Frank Murkowski of Alaska, Bill Owens of Colorado, Bob Taft of Ohio, and Mark Sanford of South Carolina; and Democrats Janet Napolitano of Arizona, Ruth Ann Minner of Delaware, Brian Schweitzer of Montana, and Phil Bredesen of Tennessee.

Alaska's governor pushed through reforms to teacher benefits that pleased lawmakers but angered the state teachers' union. Ohio's governor successfully sold legislators on expanded school vouchers, while South Carolina's governor lost his bid to create vouchers and corporate-tax-credit scholarships in his state.

Governors in Arizona, Delaware, and Tennessee pushed through legislation expanding prekindergarten for 4-year-olds. Others, including governors in Kansas and Montana, focused on court orders to retool their states' school finance systems. ■



From left, Democratic Govs. Michael F. Easley of North Carolina and Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Republican Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida have put K-12 schools high on their agendas.



After lawmakers killed her school and tax package, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco was confronted with Hurricane Katrina.

oversight, and millions of dollars in annual expenditures.

Those factors have influenced several governors to call for incremental expansions of pre-K classes, and other early-childhood programs, which they argue can make such programs affordable and give states time to make sure the programs are of good quality.

“Incremental, because you have got to fit it into your budget,” Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, said in explaining her year-to-year push to expand kindergarten classes statewide. “It’s a great investment in Arizona,” she said, “and our most growing population is 0- to 5-year-olds.”

Calls to expand and improve prekindergarten and other early-

childhood programs have moved into the political limelight thanks to governors from both parties, said Libby Doggett, the executive director of Pre-K Now, a Washington-based advocacy group that monitors state policies on prekindergarten.

“The states that can’t afford it are going to find themselves so far behind in a couple of years,” Ms. Doggett said. She added that the next trend in early-childhood education may be something she believes is sorely needed: providing high-quality care using well-trained, fully certified teachers.

Georgia has the nation’s most complete voluntary “universal” system of prekindergarten, experts in early-childhood education say. Under additional funding approved

last year, the program, which is financed through the state lottery, has spaces for some 68,000 3- and 4-year-olds.

This year, Illinois Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich, a Democrat, proposed state-funded voluntary preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds in his state.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine of Virginia, who was elected last November on a platform that included universal pre-K for the state’s 4-year-olds, said he plans to appoint a commission in the fall to develop a voluntary program, which could help ensure that existing programs do not overlap.

“The wrong thing to do is to build it before you understand how to do it,” the Democrat said.

Gov. Bush said he decided to back a 2002 Florida initiative calling for voluntary universal prekindergarten to begin last fall because he had an interest in developing children’s literacy at an early age.

Gov. Phil Bredesen of Tennessee, a Democrat, said his plans to expand pre-K classes are leading to the development of academic and safety standards for such programs. Persuading Tennessee lawmakers to approve state-financed pre-K classes wasn’t the hard sell it might have been several years ago, he observed.

“The only real opposition we had was from very conservative legislators who feel the woman’s place is in the home and the kids belong there with them,” he said. “There’s a lot of people who want access to [pre-K] for their kids.” ■

A Year in Education: 2005

High school and early-childhood education may have dominated the governors’ school agendas last year, but there was plenty of room for other issues.

View an interactive state data map for all 50 states and their governors.

Requires Macromedia Flash.

Governor	2005 Legislative Agenda	2005 Results
 <p>Bob Riley (R) TOOK OFFICE: 2003 NEXT ELECTION: 2006 2006: Seeking re-election; faces a June 6 primary challenge from former state supreme court Chief Justice Roy Moore. His fiscal 2007 budget proposes \$300 million for school construction, including incentives for consolidation. He called for teacher pay raises ranging from 2.75 percent to 5 percent.</p>	<p>SENATE: 25 Democrats, 10 Republicans HOUSE: 63 Democrats, 42 Republicans</p> <p>READING: Gov. Riley pushed to increase funding for the popular Alabama Reading Initiative, a statewide effort to improve reading instruction and reach 100 percent literacy among public school students.</p> <p>FINANCE: He also wanted more stringent financial audits of all school districts. He supported fully funding the fiscal 2006 precollegiate and higher education budget requests. He also backed a 4 percent pay raise for teachers.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS: The governor sought an end to tenure for school administrators. He also proposed a statewide online-learning initiative that would offer more courses to rural schools and in teacher-shortage areas. He appointed the Alabama Commission on Teacher Quality to look into incentive-based pay for teachers and other ways to improve teaching in the state.</p>	<p>READING: The legislature approved his “full funding” request for the Alabama Reading Initiative, and established funding for the Alabama Science and Math Initiative, which provides extensive training for teachers in those subjects.</p> <p>FINANCE: Lawmakers passed a 6 percent teacher pay raise at a cost of \$185 million—more than Gov. Riley had requested. The governor vetoed the raise, but the Democratic-controlled legislature overrode his veto. Lawmakers approved his \$10.3 million request to expand distance learning.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS: The legislature did not approve the governor’s plan to end tenure for school administrators. The state is requiring all training programs for school leaders to redesign themselves by 2008. The teacher-quality commission did not begin its work fully until fiscal 2006.</p>
 <p>Frank H. Murkowski (R) TOOK OFFICE: 2002 NEXT ELECTION: 2006 2006: Plans to seek re-election. He introduced a plan to give school and district staff members bonuses based on student achievement. He favors additional K-12 school aid to help cover rising retirement and health-insurance costs.</p>	<p>SENATE: 8 Democrats, 12 Republicans HOUSE: 14 Democrats, 26 Republicans</p> <p>FINANCE: Gov. Murkowski asked the legislature for a two-year, \$126 million increase in funding for K-12 education over two years, including \$62 million in basic aid for the 2005-06 school year. He said the increase would mean a 20 percent raise in per-student spending since he took office.</p> <p>FACILITIES: He asked legislators for about \$197 million for maintenance and repairs to school buildings.</p>	<p>FINANCE: Lawmakers tapped into increased tax revenues from oil and gas to raise school aid by 5 percent, or to \$849 million—a bit more than the governor had proposed—in fiscal 2006.</p> <p>FACILITIES: Legislators met the governor’s request and approved \$197 million for school maintenance and repairs. The state continued to pay for some school construction projects in its most rural areas.</p> <p>RETIREMENT PLAN: The governor and the legislature angered teacher groups by changing the state retirement system for all new public employees from a defined-benefit plan to a defined-contribution plan.</p> <p>TEACHERS: Alaska began performance-based licensure and finished the second year of a statewide teacher- and principal-mentoring program designed to retain good educators and improve student achievement.</p>

ALABAMA

ALASKA

AT A GLANCE

CHOICE

- Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. of Utah signed into law the Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarships.
- Gov. Bob Taft signed into law a voucher plan for students in persistently failing schools in Ohio.
- Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona vetoed a bill to allow corporate-funded private school scholarships.

HEALTH

- Led by Gov. Mike Huckabee, the Arkansas board of education restricted sale of junk food in schools.
- Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich of Illinois signed a bill requiring schools to offer breakfast to needy students.
- Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico signed legislation creating 34 new school-based health centers.

TEACHER PAY

- Gov. Kenny Guinn of Nevada signed into law a \$5 million plan for teacher incentive pay.
- Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota won approval of funds for districts that adopt teacher incentive pay.
- Gov. Christine Gregoire of Washington won approval to restore voter-approved teacher pay raises.

Governor



Janet Napolitano (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. GOP challengers could include Don Goldwater, nephew of the late U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater. She urged lawmakers to expand the state's all-day kindergarten program and add more than \$100 million for classrooms.

2005 Legislative Agenda

SENATE: 12 Democrats, 18 Republicans
HOUSE: 22 Democrats, 38 Republicans
KINDERGARTEN: Gov. Napolitano proposed doubling the number of families that have access to full-day kindergarten to 20,000. She also instructed the Arizona School Readiness Board to institute ratings for child-care centers.
GRADUATION EXAMS: She backed a bill to exempt many special education students from mandatory state high school graduation tests.
TEACHERS: The governor wanted to place at least one "master teacher" in every school, and she announced plans to work with Northern Arizona University to help improve teacher training. She proposed doubling state aid for college students. She also created the state's first "pre-K-20 council" to more closely link precollegiate and higher education, and appointed a state committee to look at teacher quality and compensation.

2005 Results

KINDERGARTEN: Lawmakers approved Ms. Napolitano's plan to expand full-day kindergarten.
GRADUATION EXAMS: Legislators approved exemptions for special education students from high school graduation exams, unless families decide their children should be tested as part of their individual learning plans.
TEACHERS: The legislature approved only a pilot plan for "master teachers." The governor then proposed building the strategy into the state's voluntary career ladder for teachers, an existing pilot program now adopted in 28 school districts.
SCHOOL CHOICE: Gov. Napolitano vetoed legislation to provide \$3,500-a-year corporate-tax-credit scholarships for students from low-income families. The state already has tax-credit scholarships, financed by donations from individuals rather than businesses, that allow students to attend private schools.

Governor



Bill Owens (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 1999
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Term limits prevent Gov. Owens from running again. Republican candidates could include former U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell. The governor's top education priorities in 2006 include promoting school choice and online learning.

2005 Legislative Agenda

SENATE: 18 Democrats, 17 Republicans
HOUSE: 35 Democrats, 29 Republicans
HIGHER EDUCATION: The governor asked lawmakers to create the Colorado Achievement Scholarship Program to help needy families pay for college tuition. He also urged lawmakers to stay the course on school accountability.
COLLEGE PREP: He backed a bill to require schools to notify high school parents if any of their children failed to sign up for college-preparatory classes.
BALLOT MEASURE: He pushed for a relaxation of the "taxpayer bill of rights," or TABOR, which set caps on state revenue. He argued that the law contradicted voter-approved Amendment 23, which guarantees annual increases in K-12 aid. The issue went to voters in the form of a ballot referendum in November.

2005 Results

HIGHER EDUCATION: Lawmakers passed the Colorado Achievement Scholarship Program, creating a trust fund that is anticipated to have \$50 million that would generate \$2.5 million per year in interest for aid for students who complete a precollegiate curriculum and qualify for Pell Grants. The governor signed a bill requiring the Colorado school board to establish statewide formulas for calculating dropout, graduation, student-mobility, and promotion rates.
COLLEGE PREP: A pared-down version of the college-preparatory bill became law without the governor's signature. It requires local school boards to give 8th graders a list of courses that satisfy the state's higher education admissions guidelines.
BALLOT MEASURE: He declared victory after voters suspended TABOR revenue limits. Some \$3.7 billion in revenue that would have been refunded to taxpayers can be spent on schools and other public services over the next five years.



Mike Huckabee (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 1996
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Prevented by term limits from another term. Seen as a possible contender for president. Gubernatorial candidates include Attorney General Mike Beebe, a Democrat. Gov. Huckabee was expected to call a special session to respond to a court ruling on school finance.

SENATE: 27 Democrats, 8 Republicans
HOUSE: 72 Democrats, 28 Republicans
FACILITIES AND FINANCE: The governor suggested lawmakers pass court-ordered facility improvements using, in part, the state's budget surplus for emergency repairs. He backed providing college financial aid for undocumented children born in other countries.
HEALTH: He continued his Healthy Arkansas initiative. He asked for full implementation of Act 1220 with the aim of helping children live healthier lives.
CHARTER SCHOOLS: For the third year in a row, Gov. Huckabee pushed for a higher cap on the number of charter schools, and for other changes that would help spread those schools.
ART AND MUSIC: He fought a bill to end the state's law requiring the study of music and art under certified teachers in elementary schools.

FACILITIES AND FINANCE: Lawmakers approved \$104 million for emergency school building repairs; critics argued that actual costs are much higher. All districts also were required to submit 10-year facility master plans. Lawmakers did not provide any hike in basic school aid for fiscal 2006, but did approve adding \$97 per student for fiscal 2007. But the 2006 budget included \$35 million in new money to stabilize the teacher health-insurance system. Lawmakers rejected the governor's plan on college aid.
HEALTH: The state board of education approved new regulations that restrict the sale of sugary snacks and beverages in schools, and that require regular physical activity for students.
CHARTER SCHOOLS: Lawmakers lifted the cap on such schools from 12 to 24 and allowed five-year charter agreements and eased financing rules.
ART AND MUSIC: Lawmakers did not end art and music requirements, but decreased the time schools are required to offer in such subjects.



M. Jodi Rell (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2004
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for election in her own right after moving up from lieutenant governorship. Democratic opponents could include New Haven Mayor John DeStefano and Stamford Mayor Dan Malloy. Her agenda includes raising state aid for high-poverty schools.

SENATE: 24 Democrats, 12 Republicans
HOUSE: 99 Democrats, 52 Republicans
TAKING OVER: While battling cancer, Gov. Rell called for major budget cuts after taking over as governor in the wake of a financial scandal involving her predecessor and fellow Republican, Gov. John G. Rowland.
EARLY CHILDHOOD: The governor's fiscal 2006 budget plan included approximately \$9 million more for preschool programs than the \$55.5 million allocated in the previous budget.
TECHNOLOGY: Her efforts in educational technology began when she was lieutenant governor and led to legislation that included the creation of a statewide digital library and the Connecticut Education Network, a high-speed network that connects the state's public schools, libraries, and colleges. She sought additional funding for the CEN. She submitted a plan to provide laptop computers to students in 9th and 10th grade English and social studies classes.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: The legislature allocated the approximately \$9 million more that Gov. Rell had requested for preschool programs. The governor also created an Early Childhood Cabinet, co-chaired by her special adviser for early-childhood education and the state education commissioner. The panel is expected this summer to deliver a multiyear plan for early-childhood education with the goal of ensuring every child enters school ready to learn.
TECHNOLOGY: The legislature secured about \$5 million in bonds for the CEN to ensure that all of the state's 169 school districts were connected to the network by the 2005-06 school year. In response to Gov. Rell's laptop-computer proposal, the legislature appropriated funds for a pilot program. The state education agency awarded money to seven districts to create pilot programs; it will evaluate the programs to determine whether to expand the laptop program statewide.



Arnold Schwarzenegger (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Democratic challengers include State Treasurer Phil Angelides. The governor has proposed large spending increases for K-12 schools, as well as a massive plan for building new schools.

SENATE: 25 Democrats, 15 Republicans,
ASSEMBLY: 47 Democrats, 32 Republicans
FINANCE: Gov. Schwarzenegger called for state financial restructuring, teacher-pension changes, and curbs on teacher tenure in a special legislative session.
MIXED AGENDA: He said he would introduce measures to "further" charter schools in the state, improve vocational education, and ensure more financial transparency in schools.
HIGH SCHOOL: He proposed additional tutoring to help high school students pass the state exit exam.
BALLOT MEASURES: In the fall, the governor saw the defeat of his ballot measures to give lawmakers more say over education spending by easing a state constitutional guarantee on K-12 funding, to curb teacher tenure, and to require that unions get annual permission from members to use their dues for political activities.

FINANCE: The governor dropped his plan to put a 401(k)-style pension program for public employees on the special election ballot in November 2005. The legislature approved some \$50 million in grants for low-performing schools to recruit, retain, and reward teachers and principals.
MIXED AGENDA: The governor won enactment of a new funding model for charter schools that will simplify funding formulas and increase resources for such schools over the next three years. The final fiscal 2006 budget also included \$20 million for career and technical education.
HIGH SCHOOL: The state is spending \$70 million this year to help students prepare for the high school exit exam.
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE: His plan to require schools to post their budgets on the Internet stalled. The governor signed into law a requirement that districts post average school-level teacher salaries.



Ruth Ann Minner (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2001
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: She proposed adding 10 math specialists to the 22 now at work in middle schools. Her proposed budget for fiscal 2007 would pay for the next phase of her plan to fully implement full-day kindergarten statewide by 2008.

SENATE: 13 Democrats, 8 Republicans
HOUSE: 15 Democrats, 26 Republicans
TEACHERS: Gov. Minner wanted a new teacher-accountability system in place for the 2005-06 school year. She also backed placing reading-resource teachers in every elementary school and math specialists in all middle schools, starting with the 22 lowest-scoring middle schools. She proposed expanding the Delaware Teacher Corps to 50 participants; the program recruits talented young people into teaching.
DIPLOMAS: She called for revisions to the state's three-tiered diploma.
KINDERGARTEN AND COLLEGE: Her fiscal 2006 budget included phasing in voluntary, full-day kindergarten by 2008. She also proposed the Student Excellence Equals Degree, or SEED, scholarships for associates' degrees at the state's only public two-year college.

TEACHERS: The legislature approved Gov. Minner's \$1.3 million plan for reading-resource teachers in elementary schools and math specialists in the lowest-scoring middle schools. The lawmakers approved a pilot version of the teacher-accountability system. Funding for the Delaware Teacher Corps continued.
DIPLOMAS: The legislature changed the state's controversial three-tiered system. It scaled back the program to two tiers for 2006 and 2007 and to one diploma for all graduates in 2008.
KINDERGARTEN AND COLLEGE: Legislators approved \$3 million to expand full-day kindergarten. They also OK'd \$13 million for construction of new classrooms to house such classes; Gov. Minner had sought \$30 million. Lawmakers also designated \$1 million for the governor's SEED scholarships, which will provide free tuition for qualified students pursuing two-year degrees.

FLORIDA

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Jeb Bush (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 1999
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: He is prevented by term limits from seeking a third term. GOP candidates include two former state schools chiefs: Attorney General Charlie Crist and state CFO Tom Gallagher. Gov. Bush is promoting a plan to improve high schools.

SENATE: 14 Democrats, 26 Republicans
HOUSE: 36 Democrats 36, 84 Republicans
FINANCE: His fiscal 2006 budget plan included \$400 million for the voluntary-preschool program approved by voters in 2002. He called on legislators to approve a public referendum on scaling back the state's expensive class-size-reduction program. He lobbied lawmakers to tighten financial rules for private schools using state voucher money.
TEACHER PAY: He sought higher pay for teachers in hard-to-fill subjects and in low-rated schools, and those in high-poverty areas. He proposed to raise starting pay for teachers to \$35,000, up from \$31,000. Gov. Bush initiated development of Sunshine Connections, an online program that will allow teachers to create individual learning plans.
READING: He wanted to require remedial help for low-scoring readers in middle school and Reading Compact Scholarship vouchers of up to \$4,257 for the state's lowest-scoring readers.

FINANCE: Lawmakers backed most of the governor's proposed fiscal 2006 budget, including money for the voter-approved voluntary-preschool program, while allowing some of that aid to go to private providers, including church-run programs. Legislators did not approve new financial and accountability rules for private schools that accept state-funded tuition vouchers and scholarships.
TEACHER PAY: The legislature did not approve new starting pay for teachers.
READING: The legislature approved slightly less for the literacy program than Gov. Bush had proposed. Lawmakers did not approve Gov. Bush's plan to provide vouchers to the state's lowest-scoring readers. They also did not approve most of governor's middle school improvement plan. State education officials began to require that low-scoring readers take remedial courses.

GEORGIA



Sonny Perdue (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Top Democratic hopefuls are Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor and Secretary of State Cathy Cox. Mr. Perdue proposed raises for teachers of 4 to 7 percent, and pledged to sign a bill requiring districts to spend 65 percent of their budgets in the classroom.

SENATE: 22 Democrats, 34 Republicans
HOUSE: 80 Democrats, 99 Republicans, 1 Independent
TEACHER PAY: The governor proposed a 2 percent pay increase for teachers. He also proposed a \$250 tax deduction for teachers for school supplies they buy with their own money.
TEACHER QUALITY: He proposed a "master teacher" certification program to reward excellent teachers. Those teachers would work as academic coaches in low-performing schools.
HIGH SCHOOL: Gov. Perdue called for creation of a "virtual high school" to help students in rural areas take advanced courses over the Internet.
COLLEGE: He proposed creating a GACollege411 Web site to give high school students information and other resources on applying for college.
PRE-K: He sought the addition of 2,000 spaces to the state's lottery-financed prekindergarten effort.

TEACHER PAY: The legislature passed the pay increase and teacher tax deduction, and Gov. Perdue signed them into law.
TEACHER QUALITY: The "master teacher" program is being implemented.
HIGH SCHOOL: The Georgia Virtual High School is now operating.
COLLEGE: The GACollege411 Web site is operating.
PRE-K: The pre-K enrollment increase of 2,000 pupils was approved and funded, bringing the total number of preschool slots to about 68,000.

HAWAII



Linda Lingle (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2002
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Plans to seek re-election. Gov. Lingle has sought new aid for school construction and wants to make it easier for retired teachers to return to the classroom without losing benefits. She has revived her plan for a charter district.

SENATE: 20 Democrats, 5 Republicans
HOUSE: 41 Democrats, 10 Republicans
EARLY CHILDHOOD: Gov. Lingle proposed an early-childhood-education initiative in which 3,000 more children would have access to accredited preschools. Incentives would also be offered for providers to attend training.
CHARTER SCHOOLS: The governor proposed lifting the cap on the number of charter schools in the state, currently at 27, and creating a "charter district" that such schools on all of the islands could be part of.

EARLY CHILDHOOD: The final state budget included \$5 million for the state's Open Doors preschool-scholarship program, which was a 136 percent increase over the previous year. While money was not specifically dedicated to train providers, incentives are offered to encourage programs to improve quality.
CHARTER SCHOOLS: The governor's proposal did not pass.

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Dirk Kempthorne (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 1999
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: The governor is not seeking another term, though he is permitted to do so. He has proposed that Idaho spend more than \$1 billion on public schools in fiscal 2007. His budget called for boosting starting teacher salaries to \$30,000.

SENATE: 7 Democrats, 28 Republicans
HOUSE: 13 Democrats, 57 Republicans
HIGH SCHOOL: He called on the state to pay closer attention to the 20 percent of students who did not appear ready to pass Idaho's first-ever graduation exams in the 2005-06 school year. He also backed the state school board's efforts to raise high school standards and to examine incentive pay for teachers.
FINANCE: His K-12 budget for fiscal 2006 proposed raising state aid for schools from \$964.7 million to about \$1 billion. Mr. Kempthorne urged that more charter schools be opened, after a law that allowed such schools was enacted in 2004. He also proposed a continuation of financing for a program to help districts match local tax levies for school construction.

NEW PROGRAMS: A bill backed by Gov. Kempthorne that would have required teachers to undergo supervised classroom experience before being issued teaching certificates died. He signed a bill that makes it a misdemeanor for a parent to knowingly allow his or her child to become a habitual truant.
HIGH SCHOOL: The fiscal 2006 budget added \$1.1 million to the state's technology fund and broadened the permissible uses to include remedial education. In addition, \$450,000 was approved to create online coursework for students who fail the state's high school exit exam. The state school board continued work to strengthen high school course requirements. Nothing on teacher incentive pay was passed.
FINANCE: Lawmakers approved a \$22.4 million hike in K-12 school aid, for a total of \$987.1 million—less than the \$1 billion sought by Gov. Kempthorne and the state schools chief. The legislature approved the bond-levy assistance of about \$5 million.

IDAHO



Rod R. Blagojevich (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Faces opposition in the Democratic primary from former Chicago alderman and schoolteacher Edwin Eisendrath. The governor proposed a voluntary pre-K program open to 3- and 4-year-olds; estimated three-year cost is \$135 million.

SENATE: 31 Democrats, 27 Republicans
HOUSE: 65 Democrats, 53 Republicans
ADMINISTRATION: He pledged to continue to implement the changes he initiated in 2004 at the state education agency, including reducing teacher-certification backlogs and trimming regulations. He took credit for directing the agency to streamline school report cards, provide more school meals, and to use measures "to help schools consolidate."
FINANCE: He did not support proposed legislation to replace some property taxes for schools with higher state income taxes. Instead, he proposed raising revenue by expanding the number of slot machines at Illinois casinos. He also pushed for a third year of expanding prekindergarten.
NUTRITION: He backed legislation to help provide school breakfasts to many Illinois students, and urged the state education board to ban sugary snacks and drinks in elementary and middle schools.

HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Blagojevich signed into law stricter high school graduation requirements, including a third year of math and mandatory geometry and Algebra 1; two years of science, starting with freshmen in fall 2007; and a fourth year of English, to be phased in a year later. He also signed a bill that will bring back the state's writing tests, which had been cut because of budget constraints.
FINANCE: Lawmakers passed a 5 percent budget increase for K-12 schools for fiscal 2006, with part of the revenue coming from other spending categories rather than new money. The governor's proposal to reap new revenue through slot machines did not pass, nor did lawmakers' efforts to restructure taxes to pay for schools. The governor's plan to expand pre-K classes was approved in the budget.
NUTRITION: He signed the Childhood Hunger Relief Act, which requires that school breakfasts be offered to students in schools that meet income-eligibility guidelines.

ILLINOIS



Mitch Daniels (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: He proposed Dollars to the Classroom, a program that would give school districts more spending flexibility and, he says, reduce overhead costs.

SENATE: 17 Democrats, 33 Republicans
HOUSE: 48 Democrats, 52 Republicans
FACILITIES: The governor declared a 120-day moratorium on school construction bonds. He said that many new schools were too large, and that the state needed construction policies that consider instructional needs first.
FINANCE: Mr. Daniels challenged lawmakers to come up with a school finance system that is easier for the public to understand and to lower the burden on property-tax payers. He also proposed a school budget for fiscal 2006 and 2007 of \$7.4 billion, an increase of just over 1 percent from the previous two-year budget.
OTHER PRIORITIES: He proposed bills to spread the growth of charter schools and to move state tests to the spring. He sought to move the kindergarten enrollment date to Aug. 1, beginning in the 2006-07 school year.

FACILITIES: In response to the governor's executive order, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance issued the "School Construction Annual Report 2003-2004" and "Guidance for Review of School Building Project Financing."
FINANCE: The school finance formula was changed to remove minimum-funding guarantees for districts. Instead, state aid is based more on average attendance and the various needs of students in each district. As part of an effort to balance the budget, aid for K-12 schools was essentially left at the same level for fiscal 2006 and 2007 as the previous biennium.
OTHER PRIORITIES: Lawmakers passed a bill that eases the flow of state and federal money to charter schools. No legislation was passed to change the state-assessment schedule. The new kindergarten-enrollment date was adopted.

INDIANA

IOWA

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

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Tom Vilsack (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 1999
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Not seeking a third term. U.S. Rep. Jim Nussle, a Republican, faces one of two Democrats: former U.S. Rep. Mike Blouin or Iowa Secretary of State Chet Culver, a former teacher. Gov. Vilsack proposed another \$20 million for Iowa Strong Start early-childhood programs. He proposed \$3.9 million toward child-care-worker training.

SENATE: 25 Democrats, 25 Republicans
HOUSE: 49 Democrats, 51 Republicans
EARLY CHILDHOOD: The governor urged the legislature to approve many of the recommendations of the Iowa Learns Council, such as increasing resources for very young children, and creating a rating system and expanding training for child-care providers. The price tag for the changes, part of Iowa Strong Start, was about \$40 million.
FINANCE: Mr. Vilsack's proposed fiscal 2006 budget included about \$40 million in new K-12 spending, mainly for teacher pay raises. The governor proposed \$6.1 million in incentives for school districts that merge or that share superintendents, as well as adopt other changes aimed at efficiency. He also wanted \$12 million in previous budget cuts to the state education agency to be restored.

PRESCHOOL: Lawmakers approved \$21 million of Gov. Vilsack's \$40 million in early-childhood proposals. The plan includes \$10.4 million for local programs, including help with preschool tuition for low-income families, money to expand parent education programs, and \$1 million for preschool teacher training. The legislature also approved the governor's \$900,000 plan to create a child-care quality-rating system, which began Feb. 1, 2006.
FINANCE: The legislature generally backed the governor's budget, passing a 4.4 percent increase in K-12 school aid. It approved \$24.3 million of Gov. Vilsack's \$40 million request for teacher pay and training. The governor and the legislature also agreed to add an extra day of training for teachers at a cost of \$10 million, and \$6.6 million that school districts can use toward salaries and training. Lawmakers rejected the governor's plan to restore the \$12 million in earlier cuts.

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

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Kathleen Babineaux Blanco (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2004
NEXT ELECTION: 2007
2006: Her High School Redesign Commission held forums in January and is expected to release its report in March. She created a task force to oversee post-Hurricane Katrina school restructuring in New Orleans.

SENATE: 24 Democrats, 14 Republicans
HOUSE: 67 Democrats, 36 Republicans,
BEFORE KATRINA: Gov. Blanco proposed a \$3,300 pay raise over two years for teachers as part of an effort to raise salaries to the Southeast average. It was to be financed by increased taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and gambling. She sought \$20 million to help more children from disadvantaged backgrounds attend preschool. She advocated continued expansion of pre-K classes, and sought \$10 million in new classroom-technology aid.
AFTER KATRINA: Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the governor called on lawmakers to embrace a plan to give the state control of most New Orleans public schools. Those schools would be placed in the state's "recovery school district," created in 2003. The governor's plan, considered during a November special session, called for making it far easier to take such action by lowering the academic threshold.

BEFORE KATRINA: Lawmakers did not approve tax increases for the governor's proposed teacher-pay raise. Instead, the legislature approved a measure to ensure that teachers receive a raise of at least \$530. The legislature did pass a \$20 million funding increase for pre-K, for a total of \$55 million, expanding such classes as the governor had proposed. Lawmakers also approved her \$10 million proposal for classroom technology.
AFTER KATRINA: The legislature backed, with minor adjustments, the governor's plan to take over most New Orleans public schools. The state may either permit outside groups to operate those schools as charters or run them itself. Gov. Blanco successfully called for state universities and K-12 schools to accept hurricane-displaced students without documentation. Lawmakers approved cuts of \$600 million from the state budget of \$18.7 billion for fiscal 2006.

LOUISIANA

KANSAS

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Kathleen Sebelius (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Expected to announce she is running for re-election. She has called for increasing K-12 aid and closer monitoring of school spending.

SENATE: 10 Democrats, 29 Republicans
HOUSE: 42 Democrats, 83 Republicans
COURT MANDATE: Gov. Sebelius demanded that lawmakers follow a 1999 court order to provide more adequate and equitable school funding. She did not propose a specific remedy, however.
AUDITS: After lawmakers didn't back her 2004 plan for efficiency audits of school districts, the governor launched an effort to use money from private foundations to carry out the audits.

COURT MANDATE: In June 2005, the Kansas Supreme Court ordered the state to spend \$143 million more than had been budgeted for schools for fiscal 2006. The final budget lifted K-12 spending by 12 percent above the fiscal 2005 level. The court said that it could seek more spending for fiscal 2007 if the legislature failed to complete a valid analysis of K-12 costs as part of the budget-writing process.

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

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John Baldacci (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election. He is seeking a new scholarship program for individuals entering the child-care and preschool education fields. He wants to raise the starting teacher salary to \$30,000 and reduce the time students and teachers spend on test-taking.

SENATE: 19 Democrats, 16 Republicans
HOUSE: 76 Democrats, 73 Republicans
HIGHER EDUCATION: The governor pushed for \$2 million in college scholarships for "nontraditional" students in the Early College for Me program. The program identifies 11th graders who are from first-generation college-going families and offers them scholarships to take courses at community colleges and advisers to help them through the application process. Mr. Baldacci also advocated the construction of a vocational education center in the only area of the state without one.
LAPTOPS: He proposed expanding the state's laptop-computer program so that 9th graders could receive the computers in addition to 7th and 8th graders.

HIGHER EDUCATION: The Early College for Me program received \$2 million. The program is in 40 high schools this year and is serving about 500 students. The eventual goal is to expand the program to 2,000 students. The governor's proposal to construct a vocational education center passed. The project is now in the planning stage.
LAPTOPS: No specific general money was appropriated for expanding the program, though the legislature said that school districts could use targeted technology funds from the state for such computers.
TAX CAPS: Gov. Baldacci signed legislation that imposed property-tax caps and phased in higher state shares of K-12 school financing, from 53 percent of "recognized costs" in fiscal 2006 to 55 percent by fiscal 2009.

MAINE

KENTUCKY

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Ernie Fletcher (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2007
2006: Has said he intends to run for re-election next year.

SENATE: 15 Democrats, 22 Republicans, 1 Independent
HOUSE: 57 Democrats, 43 Republicans
READING: He proposed Read to Achieve, a program designed to provide an early diagnosis of children who are at risk of failing to read at grade level in the 3rd grade.
COMPENSATION: In a legislative session dedicated primarily to solving the state's budget crisis, Mr. Fletcher proposed a \$26 million experiment with incentive pay to help retain teachers.
LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS: The governor proposed a three-year pilot program that called for redirecting a portion of coal taxes to schools with the lowest performance in the counties that produce coal.

READING: The legislature passed Read to Achieve and financed it with \$8 million in its first year.
COMPENSATION: The legislature did not pass the teacher-retention plan.
LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS: The legislature did not pass the plan to use coal-tax money to aid low-performing schools.

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Democrats running are Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley and Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan. Gov. Ehrlich's fiscal 2007 budget plan proposes a \$462 million increase in K-12 aid.

SENATE: 33 Democrats, 14 Republicans
HOUSE: 98 Democrats, 43 Republicans
FINANCE: The governor's proposed budget for fiscal 2006 included a record increase for K-12 schools, as required by state law. The budget backed \$155 million for construction, more than doubling the amount allocated the previous fiscal year. It also proposed allowing slot machines at horse-racing tracks, which Mr. Ehrlich argued would raise \$800 million annually for schools and create regular funding for school construction.
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: He asked Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele to convene a blue-ribbon panel to study ways to improve schools, review education spending, and look at issues such as charter schools, teacher retention, school construction, and social promotion. Gov. Ehrlich also convened a math and science "summit" to discuss ways the state could improve education in those fields.

FINANCE: Lawmakers approved a record \$400 million increase in K-12 aid and an additional \$120 million for school construction. Gov. Ehrlich backed the large funding increases, which were recommended by the state's Thornton Commission on education in 2002 and enacted into law.
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: Lt. Gov. Steele's commission recommended many changes in education policy that the governor backed, including a teacher-compensation system that would pay teachers according to levels of expertise, effectiveness, and school staffing needs.

MARYLAND

MASSACHUSETTS

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results

MISSISSIPPI



Mitt Romney (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Not seeking second term. Many expect Gov. Romney to seek the GOP nomination for president. Republican. Gov. Romney continued advocating his proposals, including bonuses of up to \$15,000 to qualifying teachers.

SENATE: 34 Democrats, 5 Republicans
HOUSE: 139 Democrats, 21 Republicans
IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Gov. Romney proposed the Education Reform Act of 2005 in September, calling for \$46 million for teacher pay raises, bonuses for some new math and science teachers, and improvement of teacher training. The plan included bonuses of up to \$5,000 for teachers evaluated as “exemplary” for contributing to growth in student achievement. The governor also sought to lift the state cap on charter schools and to require low-performing schools to offer courses on education skills for parents of incoming kindergartners.
COMPUTERS: He also proposed supplying free low-cost laptop computers to all middle and high school students in the state.
FINANCE: His fiscal 2006 budget plan proposed raising direct education spending from \$3.6 billion to \$3.7 billion.

IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Lawmakers weighed various parts of Gov. Romney’s proposals, with many Democrats raising concerns over the performance-based-pay proposal.
COMPUTERS: The legislature did not take action on the governor’s proposal. Legislative leaders voiced skepticism about the cost and effectiveness of the low-cost laptops, which were designed for use in developing nations.
FINANCE: After the state’s school finance system was upheld in the state’s highest court, lawmakers raised spending for the aid formula. The fiscal 2006 budget included \$5.5 million for assistance to underperforming schools and districts. Overall K-12 aid rose by \$129.3 million, or 3.5 percent—a bit more than the governor proposed. The budget included \$25 million for grants to improve instruction in full-day kindergarten and to strengthen connections between pre-K through 1st grade.



Haley Barbour (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2004
NEXT ELECTION: 2007
2006: Citing the likely long-term economic impact of Hurricane Katrina, Gov. Barbour is pushing for “home rule” to give school districts more authority to tax. He was awaiting tax-revenue reports in March before planning his fiscal 2007 budget for K-12 education.

SENATE: 28 Democrats, 24 Republicans
HOUSE: 75 Democrats, 47 Republicans
BEFORE KATRINA: Gov. Barbour began the 2005 legislative session by dueling with the Democratic-controlled legislature over school funding.
TEACHER PAY: He proposed for a second year an 8 percent teacher pay raise, and a 3 percent, \$57 million increase in general K-12 aid. He also proposed the Upgrade Education Reform Act of 2005, which called for giving extra pay to teachers who served as mentors and for teachers whose schools showed the largest test-score gains.
FLEXIBILITY: The Upgrade Education plan also sought to scale back state regulations for the highest-rated school districts.
AFTER KATRINA: Gov. Barbour lobbied for federal aid to help Gulf Coast districts operate and rebuild.

SCHOOL AID: Budget talks stalled—mainly over K-12 spending—in the regular session. During a special session in May, lawmakers passed a \$145 million, 7 percent increase in K-12 aid. That was more than the governor had proposed, but not enough to “fully fund” the Mississippi Adequate Education Program formula.
TEACHER PAY: The final fiscal 2006 budget included an 8 percent raise for teachers, completing a five-year plan to boost the average salary to around \$41,413 a year, which is near the Southeast average. The budget provided \$200 for each teacher’s classroom supplies, \$300 less than Mr. Barbour wanted. The budget preserved two years of college-loan forgiveness for teachers who work in high-need geographic or subject areas.
FLEXIBILITY: The Upgrade Education bill died in a conference committee. Gov. Barbour was pushing the proposal again in 2006, though with changes.

MICHIGAN



Jennifer M. Granholm (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Faces GOP businessman Dick DeVos. She has pushed for legislation to raise high school standards, and wants lawmakers to require school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies and to notify parents if their child is in trouble for grades or attendance.

SENATE: 16 Democrats, 22 Republicans
HOUSE: 52 Democrats, 58 Republicans
HIGH SCHOOL: Gov. Granholm sought extra aid for each high school student to help strengthen academic programs. She proposed creating a new high school exam that would incorporate a college-entrance exam. She proposed revising the Merit Scholarship program to give up to \$4,000 to college students who complete two years of classes, starting in fall 2007.
EARLY CHILDHOOD: She proposed the creation of the Early Childhood Investment Corp., a public-private partnership, to improve child care and early-childhood education.
FACILITIES: The governor also said she would seek \$800 million in bond funds for infrastructure-improvement projects, including the modernization of aging school buildings.

HIGH SCHOOL: Lawmakers passed a fiscal 2006 budget that included an additional \$175 million for the per-pupil foundation grant, while rejecting the governor’s plan for additional high school aid. The governor and lawmakers agreed to the new high school exam. Lawmakers did not approve the revisions to the Merit Scholarships.
EARLY CHILDHOOD: The governor created the early-childhood partnership.
FACILITIES: Lawmakers did not vote on legislation introduced on behalf of the governor to make it easier and less expensive for some districts to borrow at least \$500 million from the School Bond Loan Fund for renovations to older buildings.



Matt Blunt (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: Gov. Blunt has made equitable funding a top education priority. He has proposed a 4.4 percent, \$167 million increase in the K-12 budget for fiscal 2007. He supports asking voters—through a ballot measure—to require school districts to move toward spending at least 65 cents of every dollar on classroom needs.

SENATE: 11 Democrats, 23 Republicans
HOUSE: 64 Democrats, 97 Republicans
BUDGET: Mr. Blunt promised no more “paralysis” on school budgets between his office and the legislature. He proposed \$170.6 million in new K-12 school aid in fiscal 2006, a 4.7 percent increase from the previous year. He also called for a \$5 million increase in the Parents as Teachers program to help with school readiness and prevention of child abuse. He sought a \$4 million increase for the A+ Schools Program, which provides two free years of community college for qualifying students.
FINANCE FORMULA: He urged lawmakers to devise a new education finance formula. He proposed letting some districts opt out of state funding and many regulations in exchange for strong academic performance. He called for extra spending on special education.
SCHOOL CHOICE: He backed a House plan to create voucher-like scholarships for students in urban areas who met certain criteria, including low family income and low achievement levels.

FINANCE FORMULA: The legislature passed, and Gov. Blunt signed into law, what he called a more equitable system of paying for schools. The formula sets a minimum per-pupil funding level of \$6,117, from all sources. Districts’ per-pupil funding levels in the previous year ranged from nearly \$5,000 in rural areas to just under \$14,000 in urban areas. The budget included a \$1 million increase for the Parents as Teachers program and \$3.8 million more for A+ Schools. The final K-12 budget increased by 4 percent over the previous year. Plaintiffs in a school finance case were not satisfied by the funding changes.
HEALTH CARE: Lawmakers waged a battle over a proposal by Mr. Blunt to eliminate the state’s First Steps program, which provides a range of intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. To keep it going, the legislature ratified a sliding-fee scale for families that use the program.
SCHOOL CHOICE: Legislators did not take a floor vote on a \$40 million House plan for scholarships worth \$3,800 to \$4,000 each for low-income students and for students with low grade point averages, discipline problems, or incarcerated parents.

MISSOURI

MINNESOTA



Tim Pawlenty (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election. Democrats seeking their party’s nomination include developer Kelly Doran, state Sen. Steve Kelley, and Attorney General Mike Hatch. He’s seeking more rigor in high school math and science.

SENATE: 35 Democrats, 31 Republicans
HOUSE: 66 Democrats, 68 Republicans
FINANCE: The governor’s proposed fiscal 2006 budget included a 4.2 percent increase in K-12 school aid per student. The budget also sought extra money for districts willing to try pay-for-performance plans for teachers.
HIGH SCHOOLS: Mr. Pawlenty called for “big changes” in high schools, including the Get Ready, Get Credit program to offer college credit for high school students who take certain courses and pass related exams.
HIGHER EDUCATION: He proposed an expansion of the University of Minnesota’s course offerings at the Rochester campus and recommended \$3 million for that effort. He backed a plan modeled on a voucher-style Colorado program that sends the majority of higher education funding to students, not directly to colleges.

FINANCE: The final budget for fiscal 2006 included the proposed 4.2 percent spending increase. It also included the incentive-pay program, called Quality Compensation for Teachers, or QComp. It provides \$260 per student for participating districts and charter schools.
HIGH SCHOOLS: The governor’s plan passed, allowing 8th and 10th graders to take college-readiness and -interest assessments, and creating new options for earning college credits during high school.
HIGHER EDUCATION: After an outcry over the proposal to adopt Colorado’s college-funding model, the governor dropped the idea. The legislature allotted \$300,000 to start an accountability measurement system, as proposed by the governor.



Brian Schweitzer (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: Governor plans to focus again on scholarships targeting American Indian students, and to train more students for specific careers.

SENATE: 27 Democrats, 23 Republicans
HOUSE: 50 Democrats, 50 Republicans
SCHOLARSHIPS: The governor proposed starting a \$1,000-a-year Best and Brightest scholarship program for top high school students who enroll in state colleges and for other students who pursue science and medical fields.
FINANCE: He called for lawmakers to create a new K-12 education funding formula within 90 days.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Lawmakers amended the scholarship plan, ending up with new needs-based and merit-based scholarships for two- and four-year colleges.
FINANCE: Lawmakers responded more slowly than the governor wanted in his call for a new aid formula, and instead defined what a high-quality basic education means. In a December special session, however, lawmakers were required to act on that new definition and raised K-12 spending by \$71 million, spread over fiscal 2006 and 2007.

MONTANA

Governor

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Governor

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Dave Heineman (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for election after moving up from lieutenant governor.

SENATE: 49 (unicameral, nonpartisan legislature)
FINANCE: The governor wanted to fully fund state aid to education...
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: He called for the formation of a state Educational Leadership Council...
EARLY CHILDHOOD: Gov. Heineman also sought funding for the state's first investment in early-childhood education.

FINANCE: Lawmakers met the statutory requirement to fully fund state aid to education with a 10.5 percent increase in fiscal 2006...
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: Gov. Heineman established and co-chairs the 13-member Educational Leadership Council...
EARLY CHILDHOOD: The state increased spending on early-childhood education by \$1.6 million...
CONSOLIDATION: The legislature overrode Gov. Heineman's veto of its plan to force the merger of dozens of small elementary-only school districts.



Richard J. Codey (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2004
TERM ENDED: 2006
NEXT ELECTION: 2009
2006: After finishing the term of Gov. James E. McGreevey, who resigned, Mr. Codey did not seek election as governor.

SENATE: 22 Democrats, 18 Republicans
HOUSE: 47 Democrats, 33 Republicans
SCHOOL SECURITY: Acting Gov. Codey said he would bring security experts to every school by the fall of 2005...
STERIODS: Mr. Codey wanted to require steroid testing for high school athletes.
NUTRITION: He backed legislative efforts to curb sugary and high-fat snacks and drinks from being sold in schools.

SCHOOL SECURITY: Mr. Codey carried out his call for security audits of more than 3,500 schools. Based on the results, he issued directives in October on improving communications and training for law-enforcement and school officials.
STERIODS: The acting governor issued an executive order in December requiring high school athletes who participate in state playoffs to submit to random drug tests.
NUTRITION: While the legislature did not complete work on the proposal, the state department of agriculture adopted regulations that will put restrictions on junk foods in schools.



Kenny Guinn (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 1999
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Barred by term limits from seeking another term. Republicans running include U.S. Rep. Jim Gibbons, Lt. Gov. Lorraine Hunt, and state Sen. Bob Beers.

SENATE: 9 Democrats, 12 Republicans
HOUSE: 26 Democrats, 15 Republicans
SCHOLARSHIPS: Gov. Guinn praised the success of the state's Millennium Scholarships and proposed a \$100 million bond over two years to sustain the program...
FINANCE: He added that his proposed fiscal 2006 budget would help accommodate 35,000 new students expected to enter the state by 2007...
CLASSROOMS: Gov. Guinn called for pay-for-performance for teachers in low-rated schools.

SCHOLARSHIPS: The legislature approved \$42.6 million in new spending to help secure financing for the scholarship program in future years.
FINANCE: The final fiscal 2006 budget included funding for additional enrollment growth. It also included \$100 million to help low-performing schools.
CLASSROOMS: A \$5 million flexible incentive-pay program was approved. It can be used to finance pay-for-performance programs or to attract teachers to hard-to-fill jobs.



Bill Richardson (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Could face Dr. J.R. Damron, a Republican who is a physician. After proclaiming 2006 "the year of the child," earlier this year, the governor signed bills in March that expand pre-K, allow the state to approve charter schools, and allocate \$90 million for school construction.

SENATE: 24 Democrats, 18 Republicans
HOUSE: 42 Democrats, 28 Republicans
PRE-K: Gov. Richardson pushed lawmakers to take a first step toward providing voluntary prekindergarten to 4-year-olds across the state.
SCHOOL FINANCE: He backed full financing for the next phase of the state's three-tiered system of teacher licensing. He also supported more aid for new tests for 11th graders, financial incentives for schools to improve, higher teacher pay, more training for preschool teachers, and the creation of the New Mexico Teacher Corps to train teachers to work in low-rated schools.
SCHOLARSHIPS: He proposed spending \$51 million in surplus lottery revenues to provide college scholarships to students who do not enter college right after high school...
CHILD HEALTH: He sought to set up new school-based health centers and expand physical education.

PRE-K: The governor signed the Pre-Kindergarten Act into law. It included \$5 million in one-time spending to provide voluntary prekindergarten to more than 1,400 4-year-olds...
SCHOOL FINANCE: The fiscal 2006 budget included \$51.8 million to pay for the next phase of the three-tiered teacher-licensing system. That funding will bring the minimum salary for the top two levels of teachers to \$40,000. Mr. Richardson also signed legislation extending the state's law allowing for charter schools...
SCHOLARSHIPS: The legislature approved the governor's scholarship plan, but did not set aside funding for it.
CHILD HEALTH: The governor's package of child-health-related measures passed.



John Lynch (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election to a second two-year term. His agenda this year focuses on reducing the school dropout rate—and eliminating the state property tax.

SENATE: 8 Democrats, 16 Republicans
HOUSE: 148 Democrats, 250 Republicans
FINANCE: Gov. Lynch promised to introduce a plan to revise the K-12 school finance system...
HIGHER EDUCATION: He proposed allowing college students who receive the maximum amount in federal Pell Grant aid to go to state universities at no extra cost the first year.
KINDERGARTEN: The governor backed the idea of extending the state's kindergarten-construction program an extra year.

FINANCE: The legislature changed the school aid formula to target more money to districts with low property wealth and high academic needs.
HIGHER EDUCATION: The governor's proposal passed and will go into effect in the fall of 2006.
KINDERGARTEN: The state's kindergarten construction program was extended through June 30, 2006. An additional \$1 million was allocated to the program, which covers up to 75 percent of construction costs, as well as costs for start-up materials.



George E. Pataki (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 1995
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Not seeking a fourth term. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is considered the top Democratic candidate. Republicans running include former state Rep. John Faso and former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld.

SENATE: 27 Democrats, 34 Republicans
HOUSE: 104 Democrats, 44 Republicans
ACCOUNTABILITY: Gov. Pataki urged the legislature to create a new accountability system as part of a plan to overhaul the K-12 school aid formula.
FINANCE: He proposed a fiscal 2006 budget that called for merging six of the state's categorical programs for operating aid into one \$8.4 billion "flex aid" grant. In addition, the budget proposed a \$325 million "sound basic education" grant program, with 60 percent of the aid going to New York City in an effort to settle a long-running finance lawsuit. In that case, the state's highest court ruled that New York state does not adequately finance the city's schools.

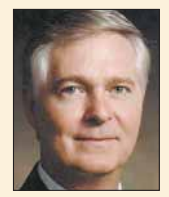
ACCOUNTABILITY: The legislature made no changes to the accountability system during the 2005 session.
FINANCE: The legislature adopted the governor's proposals to revamp the major operating programs into a "flex aid" grant and to create the "sound basic education" grant. The sound-basic-education measure wasn't enough, however, to settle the lawsuit. A trial judge ordered the state to ensure that New York City schools receive a 44 percent funding increase over the next four years. Mr. Pataki appealed that order. The appeal is pending.

NORTH CAROLINA

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Michael F. Easley (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2001
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: Gov. Easley will continue to focus on high school improvement—largely through the Learn and Earn project—as well as increased funding for low-wealth school districts, and moving teacher pay to the national average.

SENATE: 29 Democrats, 21 Republicans
HOUSE: 63 Democrats, 57 Republicans
HIGH SCHOOL: The governor proposed a statewide expansion, over four years, of the pilot Learn and Earn project, which offers college credits in high schools.
FINANCE: He backed full funding for students in low-wealth districts, raising per-pupil aid in those districts by 55 percent. He proposed expanding throughout the state a pilot program that trains teachers through community college and university partnerships.
LOTTERY: Mr. Easley backed a state lottery for education, but did not include one in his proposed fiscal 2006 budget.

HIGH SCHOOL: Learn and Earn was expanded to 14 high schools this year, and is slated to be expanded statewide by 2008.
FINANCE: Lawmakers did not fully fund the governor's plan for low-wealth districts, but added \$20 million to bring the total share of their budgets covered by the state to 77 percent. The fiscal 2006 budget included \$85 million to help put the state on track to raise teacher pay above the national average by 2008. The legislature approved \$1 million for community colleges and \$1 million for four-year institutions to support the teacher-training program.
LOTTERY: The legislature approved a lottery to raise funds for prekindergarten, class-size reduction, school construction, and college scholarships.

NORTH DAKOTA

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



John Hoeven (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 2000
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: Formed an education improvement commission to study school aid in order to to enhance equity and adequacy.

SENATE: 15 Democrats, 32 Republicans
HOUSE: 27 Democrats, 67 Republicans
FINANCE: Gov. Hoeven proposed hiking K-12 school aid by \$75 million over four years to raise teacher pay. He also proposed \$2 million for incentives to encourage districts to join with one another to form "joint power agreements to maintain educational quality."
TECHNICAL EDUCATION: The governor proposed a nearly \$3 million increase in aid for career and technical education.

FINANCE: The K-12 budget rose by \$31 million in fiscal years 2006 and 2007, to \$631 million for the two years. That increase included an additional \$29 million in per-pupil aid, which districts can apply toward salaries. The "joint power agreements" legislation was enacted. Almost all districts now participate. Lawmakers approved \$1 million for the plan, and made another \$1 million available as necessary.
TECHNICAL EDUCATION: Lawmakers approved a \$2.6 million increase, or \$28 million total, for career and technical education.

OHIO

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Bob Taft (R)
TOOK OFFICE: 1999
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Barred from seeking another term. Republicans running are Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell and state Attorney General Jim Petro. One of them will face Democratic U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland. Gov. Taft's top education priority for 2006 is winning approval of the Ohio Core Program, a five-point plan that would establish a rigorous core curriculum for high school students.

SENATE: 11 Democrats, 22 Republicans
HOUSE: 37 Democrats, 62 Republicans
FINANCE: Gov. Taft's proposed fiscal 2006 budget tied some state aid to the adoption by school districts of student-success strategies recommended by the state's school funding task force.
HIGHER EDUCATION: Mr. Taft sought a public-private partnership, to be chaired by the governor, to focus on linking high school graduation requirements with college-entrance standards, increasing the number of demanding courses in high schools, and creating incentives for colleges to raise graduation rates. He also proposed expanding the Ohio College Access Network to boost college enrollment by 30 percent in 10 years, and increasing funds for need-based college scholarships for an additional 11,000 students.
SCHOOL CHOICE: Gov. Taft proposed offering vouchers worth up to \$3,500 to students in persistently low-performing schools.

FINANCE: The legislature adopted a new funding formula called the Building Blocks for Student Success Funding Model. That model, as the governor has encouraged, changed the existing formula to provide more money to high-poverty districts.
HIGHER EDUCATION: The governor created and chairs the Partnership for Continued Learning, which includes education, business, economic, and government leaders. The partnership focuses on linking high school graduation requirements with the knowledge and skills needed for college and the workforce. The group hopes to be instrumental in getting the Ohio Core Program off the ground. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation dedicated \$2.75 million to the partnership. With legislative approval, Gov. Taft met his goal to expand the Ohio College Access Network to offer need-based scholarships to 11,000 more students.
SCHOOL CHOICE: Lawmakers expanded the governor's plan by approving vouchers for up to 14,000 students in struggling schools; the vouchers are worth \$4,250 in grades K-8 and \$5,000 in grades 9-12.

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Brad Henry (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election. Could face U.S. Rep. Ernest Istook, a Republican. Gov. Henry wants to continue to raise teacher pay and to spend a large part of the state's new revenue on education.

SENATE: 26 Democrats, 22 Republicans
HOUSE: 44 Democrats, 57 Republicans
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL: Gov. Henry pushed for creating his Achieving Classroom Excellence, or ACE, program, which would implement end-of-course tests in 8th grade and high school and offer help to students who failed the tests. The program would also establish special math labs to boost middle school achievement, require students to take three years of high school math, and try to make the senior year more meaningful by encouraging students to take college courses. The governor proposed paying for seniors to take up to six hours of college courses per semester.
FINANCE: He wanted to establish funding for full-day kindergarten and urged lawmakers to pass a \$500 million bond to help construct new higher education buildings. He also wanted a four-year plan to raise Oklahoma teacher pay to the regional average.

OKLAHOMA

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Theodore R. Kulongoski (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election. His agenda items for this year include raising high school standards and working with pre-K-12 and higher education officials to align standards at all levels. He also wants to restore previous funding cuts.

SENATE: 18 Democrats, 12 Republicans
HOUSE: 27 Democrats, 33 Republicans
FINANCE: The governor renewed his call for a long-term investment fund that would collect \$500 million by the end of the decade for prekindergarten through college education.
EFFICIENCY: He sought pilot programs to streamline operating costs of the state's education service districts to free up money for instruction, and for a statewide data system to monitor students' academic progress. He also proposed combining 198 district-level health-insurance plans into a statewide pool to control costs for districts.
OPPORTUNITY GRANTS: Gov. Kulongoski sought to expand funding for college opportunity grants to make them available to all eligible full-time, low-income students. He also wanted to offer the grants to some part-time students for the first time.
FACILITIES: He wanted funds for construction at community colleges and universities.

OREGON

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Edward G. Rendell (D)
TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election. He faces Republican and former professional-football star Lynn Swann. The governor's top school priority is Pennsylvania Competes, an effort to make the state's students more competitive in the global economy.

SENATE: 20 Democrats, 30 Republicans
HOUSE: 92 Democrats, 109 Republicans
HIGH SCHOOL: He proposed spending \$5 million to create dual-enrollment programs that would help high school students earn college credit. He proposed another \$5 million for Project 720, which would establish academically challenging high schools with personalized learning environments and strong career counseling. The governor requested \$252 million to be spent on the state's community colleges.
EARLY CHILDHOOD: He proposed doubling the state's contribution to the federal Head Start program, allowing more children to participate.
FINANCE: The Accountability Block Grant, first proposed by state lawmakers, was funded at \$200 million for the 2004-05 school year. The governor requested the same amount for 2005-06. To reduce funding gaps, he called for using almost \$23 million in one-year aid to help districts spending less than \$8,500 per student move closer to that goal.

PENNSYLVANIA

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results

Governor

2005 Legislative Agenda

2005 Results



Donald L. Carcieri (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003

NEXT ELECTION: 2006

2006: Seeking re-election. Could face Lt. Gov. Charles J. Fogarty, a Democrat. The governor has asked the state board of regents to craft statewide performance criteria for teachers. He is seeking \$15 million to improve teacher training.

SENATE: 33 Democrats, 5 Republicans
HOUSE: 60 Democrats, 15 Republicans

FINANCE: Mr. Carcieri proposed that teachers and other state employees pay more of their health-care costs, and that school districts and cities be able to use the state's health-insurance system. He held public meetings to highlight perceived inefficiencies in teacher contracts, such as teachers' not having to share in their districts' health-care costs.

HIGH SCHOOL: He proposed \$400,000 toward new state curricula in reading, writing, and math. He also pushed legislation to standardize teacher evaluations and create a merit-pay system. He formed a Commission on Math and Science Education. He proposed the \$20 million Tuition Opportunity Program to provide free tuition at state colleges to 5,000 academically qualified needy students. He appointed the state's first pre-K-16 council.

FINANCE: The legislature voted to allow school districts and other local governments to use the state's health insurance, beginning in July 2005. After the governor drew attention to the lack of teachers' help in paying for health care, some local union contracts began requiring that teachers pay a portion of the costs. Lawmakers did not approve new teacher-evaluation standards or merit pay.

HIGH SCHOOL: Lawmakers approved a \$300,000 plan to write new statewide curricula in reading, writing, and math, which may be completed in late 2006. The Commission on Math and Science Education issued a list of policy recommendations, including more training in technology for prospective teachers and requiring a third year of science in high school. The legislature did not approve the Tuition Opportunity Program, although the governor did succeed in boosting other forms of college aid to needy students.



Phil Bredesen (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003

NEXT ELECTION: 2006

2006: Seeking re-election. He proposed \$90 million in new basic K-12 school aid, plus \$18 million in new aid aimed at helping at-risk students and \$2 million for English-language learners. He also called for \$20 million to further expand pre-K classes.

SENATE: 16 Democrats, 17 Republicans
HOUSE: 52 Democrats, 46 Republicans

FINANCE: Gov. Bredesen's fiscal 2006 budget plan included \$194 million in new K-12 school aid, fully funding the basic education program, and the addition of \$11 million for schools with high numbers of students at risk of academic failure.

PRESCHOOL: The governor proposed \$25 million in new aid as a first step toward voluntary preschool for all 4-year-olds; he said the total costs of providing universal pre-K classes statewide could reach more than \$180 million a year in the future.

TEACHERS: He asked for \$5 million in planning money to help improve teacher professional development.

FINANCE: The legislature approved most of the governor's priorities, including a 5 percent, \$130 million hike in basic K-12 school aid. Mr. Bredesen successfully argued for seed money to help local governments and charities match donations from singer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library that aim to provide every Tennessee child with a free book each month from birth to age 5.

PRESCHOOL: Legislators appropriated \$25 million from state lottery proceeds to begin pre-K classes across the state.

TEACHERS: Lawmakers approved the governor's plan to provide \$42 million to give teachers a 2 percent raise. Mr. Bredesen also began—with funding approved by lawmakers—Teach Tennessee to recruit midcareer professionals into a cohort-based teaching-fellows program. He also extended by about two weeks the governor's summer school program at nine locations throughout the state.



Mark Sanford (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003

NEXT ELECTION: 2006

2006: Running for re-election. Democratic opponents include state Sen. Thomas L. Moore. For the second year in a row, Gov. Sanford backed a bill to form a state board to authorize charter schools. He also proposed a \$63 million teacher incentive-pay plan.

SENATE: 20 Democrats, 26 Republicans
HOUSE: 49 Democrats, 73 Republicans

CHOICE: The governor's Put Parents in Charge school choice plan included reducing parents' state income taxes by up to \$4,000 to help them pay for private school tuition. It also sought corporate tax credits for contributions to private-school-scholarship funds and would have provided tax credits for home-schooling families. Mr. Sanford also wanted lawmakers to approve a statewide charter school district with an oversight board to encourage the growth of charters.

DROPOUTS: Contending that low test scores and high dropout rates are "a disaster" for the state, he backed an increase in K-12 aid, including setting average teacher salaries at \$500 above the Southeast average. He pledged his office would work with state officials to push an education and economic-development bill to help students define career goals and avoid dropping out.

CHOICE: His proposed Put Parents in Charge Act stalled and eventually died in the House. His proposed pilot program of school choice in two school districts also failed, as did his plan for a statewide charter district and a charter-oversight board.

DROPOUTS: The budget included aid for a 1.7 percent hike in teacher salaries, which districts can supplement with local money. Gov. Sanford signed the education and economic-development legislation, which had been in the works since before he took office. Among other provisions, the law requires students to take courses from career clusters beginning in 9th grade.



Rick Perry (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2000

NEXT ELECTION: 2006

2006: Running for re-election. Challengers include Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and former U.S. Rep. Chris Bell, a Democrat. Texas is planning a special session on school finance this spring in response to a court ruling.

SENATE: 12 Democrats, 19 Republicans
HOUSE: 63 Democrats, 87 Republicans

FINANCE: Gov. Perry proposed dramatic changes to the way the state's schools are financed.

TEACHERS: He proposed a \$7,500 salary supplement for teachers who teach in underperforming schools.

TURNAROUND TEAMS: He sought to establish groups of educators that specialize in improving management practices and mentoring teachers in underperforming schools.

CLASSROOM SPENDING: Gov. Perry proposed requiring "transparent" school budgets that tell taxpayers the percentage that each Texas district spends on classroom expenses.

FINANCE: Many of the governor's ideas were incorporated into omnibus school finance and accountability bills that the legislature failed to pass.

TEACHERS: While the legislature did not pass Mr. Perry's proposal, he established an incentive-pay program by executive order. The Texas Education Agency will use \$10 million in federal money to reward teachers in 100 schools that have high test scores despite having high percentages of disadvantaged students.

TURNAROUND TEAMS: This measure did not pass in the legislature.

CLASSROOM SPENDING: Through an executive order, the governor instituted the so-called "65 Percent solution," which will require each district to allocate at least 65 percent of its budget to classroom expenses.



Michael Rounds (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003

NEXT ELECTION: 2006

2006: Seeking re-election. He announced in January his 2010 Education initiative, establishing education goals for the state to reach by 2010. The goals include academic proficiency for 3rd graders and the top college-going rate in the nation.

SENATE: 10 Democrats, 25 Republicans
HOUSE: 19 Democrats, 51 Republicans

FINANCE: The governor's fiscal 2006 budget proposed rescinding the \$7.3 million increases in K-12 school aid from each of the previous two fiscal years. It did include a 2.9 percent increase for schools, however.

READING: A program promoted by first lady Jean Rounds continued to distribute books to children statewide and to provide reading "prescriptions" through 126 cooperative health clinics.

FINANCE: Lawmakers backed Mr. Rounds' plan to rescind the aid increases from the previous two fiscal years, an action that put a damper on otherwise good news for K-12 aid. The final fiscal 2007 budget included a 3.7 percent increase over the previous year's level. The legislature directed a bipartisan task force to conduct a comprehensive study of the state's school finance system, with an interim report due in time for the 2007 session.

VETO: Gov. Rounds vetoed a bill that would have cut \$1,000 from the maximum amount that could be awarded through the 4-year-old South Dakota Opportunity Scholarships program, which aids students who have taken rigorous high school courses and attend a state college.



Jon Huntsman Jr. (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2005

NEXT ELECTION: 2008

2006: The governor wants to raise per-pupil spending. Utah has the lowest such rate in the nation. Mr. Huntsman also proposed \$7 million to finance voluntary all-day kindergarten in low-income schools. He proposed a \$10 million statewide math initiative.

SENATE: 8 Democrats, 20 Republicans
HOUSE: 19 Democrats, 56 Republicans

FINANCE: Gov. Huntsman's proposed fiscal 2006 budget called for the most aid for K-12 schools "in nearly a decade." It sought \$5.5 million to provide teachers with \$300 each in classroom supplies.

SCHOOL CHOICE: The governor welcomed school choice proposals by the legislature.

LITERACY: The state began the implementation of a \$30 million literacy program that requires pretests and post-tests for pupils in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

FINANCE: Lawmakers ultimately backed Gov. Huntsman's budget for K-12 schools, raising school aid by 6 percent for fiscal 2006.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND: The governor signed a bill allowing Utah districts to opt out of the federal No Child Left Behind law if they wish, and allow the state's own education accountability system to take priority. The law placed \$76 million in annual federal aid to the state at risk.

SCHOOL CHOICE: Gov. Huntsman signed into law the Carson Smith Special Needs Scholarships, the nation's second state voucher program for students with disabilities. The vouchers are worth up to about \$5,500 per qualifying student and can be used at public schools or private secular and religious schools.

VERMONT

Governor

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WEST VIRGINIA



Jim Douglas (R)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Expected to face Democratic former state Sen. Scudder Parker. Gov. Douglas's priorities include more focus on skills training for students, and starting a \$175 million Promise Scholarship program for in-state college students.

SENATE: 21 Democrats, 9 Republicans
HOUSE: 83 Democrats, 60 Republicans
FINANCE: The governor said the budget for fiscal 2006 did not allow for new spending.
EXPECTATIONS: He also called for continued improvement in K-12 education, the closing of student-achievement gaps, and greater innovation and use of technology. He advocated more emphasis on higher education and career training.

FINANCE: The legislature passed a \$964 million K-12 education budget for fiscal 2006, representing a 6.5 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.
EXPECTATIONS: Vermont joined New Hampshire and Rhode Island in a partnership to create a standards-based exam for grades 3-8. The states expect to save millions of dollars and improve exam quality through the effort, which did not require legislative approval.



Joe Manchin III (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: The governor is promoting workforce development through improved education. The state is one of nine in an initiative sponsored by the Southern Governors Association to improve academic rigor in schools.

SENATE: 21 Democrats, 13 Republicans
HOUSE: 68 Democrats, 32 Republicans
SMALL SCHOOLS: Gov. Manchin pledged support for small, rural schools, which he called "the hearts of our communities." He took the reins of the state's School Building Authority and aimed to steer decisions on construction money away from policies encouraging consolidation of schools. Such policies have resulted in hundreds of rural school closings.
HEALTH: He proposed the school-based Healthy Start initiative to help improve children's health.
TEACHERS: The governor backed a \$1,350 pay raise for teachers in a special legislative session. He wanted improved state institutes that offer teachers professional development.
DISTANCE LEARNING: He placed first lady Gayle Connelly Manchin in charge of expanding distance learning.

SMALL SCHOOLS: The School Building Authority began a process of revamping the scoring system for construction aid that could reduce consolidation.
HEALTH: Mr. Manchin signed the 2005 Healthy Lifestyles Act, which mandates minimum amounts of time students in grades K-8 must spend in physical education, among other steps.
TEACHERS: Lawmakers in the special session approved the governor's proposed raise for teachers. The legislature also revamped professional-development programs, set to debut in summer 2006.
DISTANCE LEARNING: The governor formed a council on technology that is developing a long-term plan for the state.

VIRGINIA

Governor

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WISCONSIN



Mark Warner (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2002
TERM ENDED: 2006
NEXT ELECTION: 2009
2006: Gov. Warner was constitutionally barred from succeeding himself. He is expected to run for president. Timothy M. Kaine, a Democrat, took over in January. He is pushing for universal prekindergarten.

SENATE: 16 Democrats, 24 Republicans
HOUSE: 37 Democrats, 60 Republicans, 2 Independents
FINANCE: After winning a record K-12 aid increase of \$729 million for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 in the 2004 session, he recommended expanding only some of his administration's smaller programs for school improvement. In 2005, he recommended adding about \$45.5 million in K-12 aid to the budget for fiscal 2006. He pressed lawmakers to expand aid for struggling schools and to match federal money to provide school breakfasts for all eligible children.
NATIONAL AGENDA: As the chairman of the National Governors Association, Mr. Warner promoted a national effort to improve high schools. He persuaded foundations to donate money for high school improvement in many states, and he asked the U.S. states and territories to work toward a common way of calculating graduation rates.

FINANCE: The legislature passed a \$42.4 million increase in K-12 aid, more than twice what Gov. Warner had proposed, but still modest, as is typical for a session in the second year of a two-year budget. Lawmakers resisted Mr. Warner's plan to raise spending for school breakfasts and other smaller programs. The increase kept state aid for schools at about \$5.8 billion in fiscal 2006.
NATIONAL AGENDA: By the end of 2005, nearly all the states had signed on to the idea of a common high school graduation rate. Work progressed in many states on high school improvement, prompted in part by the National Summit on High Schools and grants made available during Mr. Warner's chairmanship of the NGA.



James E. Doyle (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Seeking re-election. Republican challengers include U.S. Rep. Mark Green. Gov. Doyle signed a bill to raise the number of students who receive school vouchers in Milwaukee to 22,500 in exchange for more private-school accountability and class-size reduction funds.

SENATE: 14 Democrats, 19 Republicans
HOUSE: 39 Democrats, 60 Republicans
FINANCE: Mr. Doyle proposed raising the state's role in paying for schools by freezing property taxes for many homeowners and raising K-12 aid by \$850 million over two years. He sought changes in the state aid formula to provide more pre-K classes for 4-year-olds. He wanted to increase tax deductions for college tuition from \$3,000 per family to \$5,000.
CHILD CARE: He backed a new rating system for child-care providers, and an increase in the share of state child-care subsidies for high-rated providers.
VOUCHERS: He backed raising the cap on the number of vouchers in Milwaukee, but only if private schools agreed to more state accountability.
HIGH SCHOOL: He backed building on the Wisconsin Quality Educator Initiative to find more math and science teachers. He proposed a bill to require a third year of math and science for high school graduation.

FINANCE: After lawmakers approved a \$350 million increase for K-12 school aid for the biennium, Gov. Doyle reshaped the budget for fiscal 2006 and 2007 by vetoing 139 budget items passed by the Republican-controlled legislature. The governor signed a two-year budget that provided an \$801 million increase in school aid from the previous biennium. Lawmakers passed his tax deductions for college tuition.
CHILD CARE: The legislature rejected the governor's plan on state child-care subsidies and his proposed child-care-provider rating system.
VOUCHERS: The governor vetoed a bill that would have raised the cap on enrollment in Milwaukee's voucher program to 16,500 students. The agreement fell apart over accountability measures for private schools accepting the state tuition vouchers. (The 2006 deal resolved the issue.)
HIGH SCHOOL: Lawmakers rebuffed the governor's pilot program to provide differentiated pay, as well as his plan for a third year of math and science.

WASHINGTON

Governor

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WYOMING



Christine Gregoire (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2005
NEXT ELECTION: 2008
2006: The governor's top education priority is to obtain funding for intensive instructional help for students who aren't initially successful on any one portion of Washington state's high school exit exams in reading, writing, and math.

SENATE: 26 Democrats, 23 Republicans
HOUSE: 55 Democrats, 43 Republicans
EDUCATION REVIEW: Gov. Gregoire announced she wanted to create a bipartisan commission to conduct a comprehensive education study of long-term finance and ways to bring more efficiency to all levels of the state's education system.
FINANCE: The governor called for restoring Initiative 732, which provides cost-of-living pay raises for teachers and other public school staff members, and Initiative 728, which provides money for lowering class sizes and providing teachers with professional development. Both voter-adopted measures had been suspended in recent years to reduce state spending.
HIGH SCHOOL: She asked the legislature for more money for the Learning Assistance program to help struggling high school students.

EDUCATION REVIEW: The legislature approved the governor's request to establish a commission that will review all levels of education: early learning, K-12, postsecondary, and workforce training. The panel, called Washington Learns, has met several times, and its final report is due to the legislature in November. The panel has already recommended creating a department of early learning to bring focus to the state's early-learning efforts, which fall under various agencies.
FINANCE: Meeting Gov. Gregoire's request, the legislature appropriated \$135 million to pay for teachers' cost-of-living raises called for by Initiative 732, and \$138 million more to lower class sizes under Initiative 728 for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.
HIGH SCHOOL: The legislature approved \$25 million in new aid for Learning Assistance, which for the first time will be used to help high school students meet new graduation requirements.



Dave Freudenthal (D)

TOOK OFFICE: 2003
NEXT ELECTION: 2006
2006: Running for re-election. He could face Republican lawyer Ray Hunkins.

SENATE: 7 Democrats, 23 Republicans
HOUSE: 14 Democrats, 46 Republicans
FINANCE: The governor requested \$45.2 million for K-12 salary increases and \$45 million for an education innovation trust fund that was created in the 1990s but not fully funded.
HIGHER EDUCATION: He proposed a state endowment whose earnings would underwrite faculty chairs to attract top professors to the University of Wyoming and community colleges.
FACILITIES: He sought funding to help communities preserve old schools that often serve as community centers. Such schools might otherwise be demolished under the state's new school construction guidelines.

FINANCE: The legislature allotted \$22.7 million for salary hikes and \$33.3 million to help defray school employees' health-insurance costs. It did not provide money for the education trust fund.
HIGHER EDUCATION: Lawmakers set up an endowment for faculty chairs; coal revenues are to enable the fund to grow gradually to \$105 million over a few years.
FACILITIES: Legislators set up the Wyoming Community Facilities Program with a \$7.5 million account to offer loans and grants to towns to renovate and maintain old schools.

Additional information, including an interactive map of the states and a PDF copy of this report, is available at www.edweek.org/governors/.