



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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Graham Bill Would Provide Boost to Teaching Profession

Rep. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) last week introduced a bill – endorsed by President George W. Bush – that will help high-need public schools attract quality teachers. The CLASS ACT (Canceling Loans to Allow School Systems to Attract Classroom Teachers) would provide up to \$17,500 in student loan forgiveness for math, science, and special education teachers who serve in low income schools for five years.

The CLASS ACT would build on the substantial increase in federal support for teachers provided by President Bush and Congress last year, including a historic 35 percent increase in federal funds to help states and local schools train, recruit, and retain quality teachers. The historic increase is sustained in President Bush's FY 2003 Budget request and the House Republican balanced budget proposal. House Democrats have declined to offer a budget for FY 2003.

Over the next 10 years, large numbers of teachers will retire, leaving American classrooms with a serious teacher shortage – especially rural and inner city schools that already face one. Moreover, there's a chronic shortage of special education teachers, averaging about 27,000 annually.

The loan forgiveness program – which began in 1998 and provides up to \$5,000 in student loan relief – helps ensure that disadvantaged students are taught by high quality professionals. As President Bush said recently, “Children who live in low income neighborhoods can succeed, absolutely. But they need people willing to teach them.”

Message of the Day

One of the goals of the *No Child Left Behind Act* is to have a qualified teacher in every public school classroom by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

- ❑ *We don't simply need more teachers – we need more high quality professionals who know the subject matter they're teaching.*
- ❑ *Teacher loan forgiveness gives schools an effective incentive for recruiting and retaining much-needed high quality teachers.*
- ❑ *Every child can learn – as long as they're taught by an excellent teacher.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- America is facing a growing shortage of qualified teachers: over the next decade, school districts will need to hire an additional 2.2 million teachers.
- Forty-three percent of math teachers in high poverty schools have neither majored nor minored in math-related fields, compared to 27 percent in low poverty schools.
- Twenty-five percent of disadvantaged children are taught English by teachers who don't have a degree in English, compared to only 11 percent of middle class children.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Teachers are the heart and soul of our schools and they deserve our support. And children deserve the quality education that comes from excellent teachers. This is their birthright.” Mrs. Laura Bush, testimony before the House Education & the Workforce Committee, March 14, 2002