

Transformation

The Urban Educator of the Council of the Great City Schools, recently cited comments from Secretary Duncan where he made four points.

1. Encourage states to adopt rigorous standards that are internationally benchmarked so that the nation's students can successfully compete with students in other countries such as China and India.
2. DOE will focus on creating assessments and comprehensive data systems to support rigorous standards. School districts should be able to track students' progress from age of 3 to 23.
3. Looking for ways to get the nation's best and brightest to enter the teaching profession because teachers are the most important factor for student success.
4. DOE will address the need to turn around the lowest performing schools.

Secretary Duncan cited the historic opportunity to improve education through the stimulus package from the Obama administration. The funding this package is basically formula driven to support programs that are currently in place at the DOE.

Now for an Obama update on education. The President gave his first education speech (March 10) and emphasized five items as follows:

1. Investing in early childhood initiatives;
2. Encouraging better standards and assessments;
3. Recruiting, preparing, and regarding outstanding teachers;
4. Increasing charter schools and extending the school day; and
5. Providing higher education (including technical training) to all Americans.