

[Committee Print]

REPORT OF OVERSIGHT PLAN
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

MR. BOEHNER, from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, submitted to the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following.

REPORT
OVERSIGHT PLAN
OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

1. House Rule X, Clause 2(d)(1)

Each standing committee of the House is required to adopt formally an oversight plan at the beginning of each year. Specifically, Rule X, 2(d)(1) states in part:

[E]ach standing committee of the House shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration.

2. Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Rule X of the Rules of the House vests in the Committee on Education and the Workforce (Committee) with jurisdiction over issues dealing with students, education, workers, and workplace policy.

1. *Child Labor.*
2. *Gallaudet University and Howard University and Hospital.*
3. *Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce.*
4. *Food programs for children in schools.*
5. *Labor standards and statistics.*
6. *Education or labor generally.*
7. *Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes.*
8. *Regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract.*
9. *Workers' compensation.*
10. *Vocational rehabilitation.*
11. *Wages and hours of labor.*
12. *Welfare of miners.*
13. *Work incentive program.*

Accordingly, the Committee is responsible for overseeing approximately 24,000 federal employees and more than \$125 billion in annual spending. More importantly, the Education and the Workforce Committee has a dual mission: empowering parents and teachers to provide our

students with the best education possible and giving American workers access to the tools and protections they need to meet the challenges and opportunities of the New Economy.

3. General Oversight Responsibilities

According to House Rule X, Clause 2(a):

The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in – (1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of–

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and

(B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis –

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;

(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction.

4. Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities

The Committee takes seriously its responsibility to conduct oversight and investigations. The Committee is therefore committed to ensuring that government agencies, departments and programs within its jurisdiction:

- Focus on an appropriate federal mission;
- Work in an effective and efficient manner; and,
- Consistently follow Congressional intent in their respective activities and operations.

Accordingly and in keeping with the Rules of the House and the principles of oversight and investigations, the Committee has identified 6 major projects for the 108th Congress. These projects are:

Financial Management in the Department of Education: During the final three years of the Clinton Administration, the Department of Education failed three consecutive audits, and an estimated \$450 million was lost to waste, fraud, and mismanagement. In October 2001, Secretary Paige announced a comprehensive action plan for putting the Department's management and financial house in order based on 601 separate recommendations. Since then, Secretary Paige has addressed all of the audit recommendations, restricted the use of government purchase cards, and tightened control of the Department's financial matters. In early February 2003, results from an agency-wide audit of the Department of Education's financial statements will be available to the Committee. This information can be used to measure the progress that has been made by the Bush Administration in implementing needed corrective actions.

Elementary and Secondary Education: Following the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act, in the 107th Congress, the Committee has been and will continue to focus on the effective and timely implementation of the Act. The Committee will examine successful efforts to implement the law at the state and local level, as well as the obstacles to successful implementation at all levels, including how federal regulations promote or inhibit timely and effective implementation. Specific areas of focus will include accountability, assessments, choice, supplemental services, teacher quality, and flexibility.

Higher Education: The Committee will thoroughly examine the laws and regulations governing the Higher Education Act (HEA), with the goal of increasing access to postsecondary education for our nation's students, ensuring the quality of the education provided, requiring accountability on the part of the institutions providing that education and working diligently to examine the issue of skyrocketing costs within postsecondary education. In addition, within the reauthorization of the HEA, the Committee will work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as Hispanic-Serving Institutions to review opportunities to strengthen and improve aid to these institutions.

Department of Labor Issues: The Committee will continue its oversight of the various programs and statutes administered by the Department of Labor, including the administration of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The Committee also expects to monitor and review the Department of Labor's regulatory initiatives with respect to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the improvements to the union reporting requirements under title II of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959.

Retirement Security: The Committee will continue to monitor the Department of Labor's activities with respect to its efforts to protect the integrity of private pension and welfare plans. In addition, the Committee will continue its oversight of the Pension Benefit and Guaranty Corporation

In addition, the Committee reserves the right to review and investigate general legislative, administrative and regulatory issues affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee.