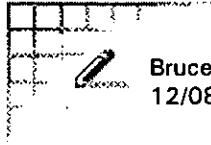


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 022 - Folder 017

Education - Work - Site Schools



Bruce N. Reed
12/08/98 12:11:48 PM

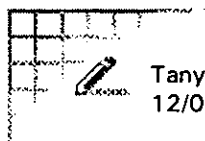
Record Type: Record

To: Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Subject: Re: Re[3]: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools

Their arguments aren't convincing. We're for giving people more choices, not less. We have reason to believe that employers and employees alike will like these schools. Most of the studies suggest that people don't actually change jobs much more than they used to. The worksite is not some outdated notion -- more parents spend more time there than ever before. In any event, we don't give up on neighborhood schools because some people move. Your proposal keeps kids in school if the parent no longer works there, and opens any extra slots to the general public. There might not be very many slots for non-employees -- but the same is true at any good neighborhood school: there won't be many slots for kids from outside the neighborhood. It's true that these might turn out to be really good schools, because parents and companies would work hard to make them good. But that's not a reason to oppose them.



Tanya E. Martin
12/08/98 11:28:57 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Re[3]: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools

Below is a string of emails from the Education Department. ED is appealing to remove the work site schools initiative from their budget based on direction from Mike Smith. The concerns that he has raised are that (1) work site schools give an enrollment preference to children of employees. Charters and other public schools of choice have used lotteries or first-come, first-serve admissions policies. (2) these schools are out of sync with the fluid movement of employees in the workforce and will be of limited appeal (actually, employers like these schools precisely b/c they help employee retention); (3) due to their small size, these schools might not adequately provide services for children with disabilities or limited English skills (existing schools either bring in the necessary teachers or transport the children to the nearest full-size school for any needed service); and (4) the tax credits might be difficult to administer.

----- Forwarded by Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP on 12/08/98 11:02 AM -----



Thomas Corwin @ ed.gov
12/08/98 08:52:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Michael Cohen, Tanya E. Martin
cc:
Subject: Re[3]: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools

Tanya and Mike--

Below is a message from Tom Skelly to Wayne Upshaw, appealing against inclusion of a worksite schools initiative in the 2000 budget, based on a message from Mike Smith (further below).

Tom

Forward Header

Subject: Re[3]: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Thomas Skelly at WDCT02
Date: 12/8/98 8:33 AM

Wayne:

Mike Smith doesn't like the Work-Site demonstration. Please note that we are appealing this item.

Tom S.

Forward Header

Subject: Re[3]: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Mike Smith at Wdcb04
Date: 12/8/98 7:07 AM

Tom Skelly and Tom Corwin: I have seen no adequate justification for this and it is generally a bad idea -- scratch it!! Mike

Reply Separator

Subject: Re[2]: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Matthew Onstott at WDCT02
Date: 12/4/98 10:49 AM

If I'm not mistaken, the funding for this initiative comes out of the \$16 million that we requested for the National Tests. OMB has suggested that we'll only need a small portion of that money for Tests and the rest will go to the worksite initiative. They have not specified the exact split, but Wei-Min did mention a figure yesterday of \$3-5 million for the Tests.

Reply Separator

Subject: Re: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Thomas Corwin at WDCT02
Date: 12/4/98 8:48 AM

Mike--

This initiative was included in the OMB passback for FIE (although at an unspecified funding level) and the Department did not appeal against it. If we want to get rid of it, we will have to act quickly.

Tom C.

Forward Header

Subject: Re: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Kristi Kimball at WDCB01
Date: 12/3/98 7:53 PM

FYI -- Mike cc'd Mike Cohen on this email as well. I've spoken with Tanya since then, and she wants to have another meeting soon (at ED) to discuss some of the remaining issues of concern on worksite schools. I'll tell you as soon as I hear any specifics.

Kristi

Forward Header

Subject: Re: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Mike Smith at Wdcb04
Date: 11/29/98 11:12 AM

Kristi: this is a generally bad idea for lots of reasons. The idea of a separate tax credit makes it absolutely awful but insures that it will not go far in Congress unless the administration is foolishly adamant. I agree fully with the concern about selection of students -- unfair to limit children in the area and foolish politically. On most of the other concerns I assume that the LEA will be proposing against some sort of absolute priority so liability, services to LEP and disabled kids etc. go away as an issue -- these are public schools, the responsibilities are the same as with other public schools. We do not want categories of public schools. Regarding business some will be for it -- others against it. The biggest problem here is that people are job mobile, sometimes on their own and sometimes against their will -- many employers do not want people to say that they can't change jobs or work sites within the same company because they have a school near the old site etc. The model of the school at the work site builds on a middle 20th century model of industry -- where people worked their lifetimes in one plant or office building. Mike
19th century model of

Reply Separator

Subject: New WH Proposal Re: Work-Site Schools
Author: Kristi Kimball at WDCB01
Date: 11/28/98 8:04 PM

Mike and Terry,

Ann asked me to update you on a new "work-site schools" proposal that Mike Cohen has been working with ED staff to develop in recent weeks.

WORK-SITE SCHOOLS BACKGROUND

The White House is interested in promoting work-site schools -- public schools located on the facilities of a business or corporation -- as a new public school choice option, because these schools promote parent involvement, relieve school overcrowding, and reduce transportation and facilities costs for school districts.

There are currently about 30 work-site schools in the US, and the majority are K-2 or K-3 schools (many have grown out of corporate child care centers). Typically, the business pays the facilities and maintenance costs, and the school district pays for the teachers, curriculum, etc.

Specifically, Mike wants to promote work-site schools through the following new initiatives:

NEW INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WORK-SITE SCHOOLS

1. \$10 to \$20 million in the FY2000 budget for work-site school planning grants funded through FIE. (avg \$100,000-\$150,000/grant)

2. \$10 to \$20 million in the FY2000 budget for a 25% tax credit for businesses that enter into cooperative agreements with school districts to provide facilities for a public school. The tax credit would be capped at \$150,000 per taxpayer, and a limited number of credits would be available each year (starting with 30 or 60 and increasing over 5 years). The five-year cost is estimated at about \$50 or \$60 million. The tax credit would have to be authorized in whatever tax bill moves next year.

3. ESEA Reauthorization. Work-site schools could be one of the models we identify as examples of "innovative schools of choice" in our proposal to create a broad new public school choice authority.

(On a related issue -- Mike, OESE is working on a revised version of the new choice authority proposal now. They will send a memo for your sign-off in about two weeks, but I would be happy to lay out the framework of the revised proposal for you before then.)

UNRESOLVED POLICY ISSUES

ED staff have helped research and develop these proposals and are generally supportive, but there are still a few unresolved policy issues.

Perhaps the biggest issue is that work-site schools would be the first "choice" schools with restricted enrollment. Most charters and magnets use a lottery to determine which students can attend. In comparison, work-site schools usually establish a preference for the children of employees and also serve some children from the immediate area -- somewhat counter to the definition of a "public school of choice." We are researching state laws now to determine whether there will be significant legal barriers to the growth of work-site schools on a national-scale.

Other open policy issues:

Liability issues;

Services to LEP and disabled students;

How do we promote HIGH-QUALITY work-site schools;

What does the business community think about work-site schools;

Message -- can we sell these schools as a new choice initiative?

Any comments or concerns?

Thanks,
Kristi