

## *What's different about it?*

# **GORE'S PROPOSAL FOR BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE**

The presidential campaign this year is unusual in that both Al Gore and George W. Bush are placing so much emphasis on improving education. Proposals from both candidates could significantly change the federal government's role in education. This is one in a series of issue briefs intended to help people understand how each candidate's major proposals **differ** from what the federal government already does in the field of education. To analyze these proposals, the Center on Education Policy drew from information on each candidate's Web site and from news reports as of August 15, 2000. These briefs are not meant to judge the merit of these proposals.

### **How does Gore's before and after-school proposal differ from current federal actions?**

Al Gore would increase the level of funding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program, which provides funds to school districts to establish and operate before and after-school care programs. He would also expand the federal dependent care tax credit to help offset some of the costs incurred by parents who pay for their children's before and after-school program. Gore's ideas differ from what is being done now in these ways:

**1. Provide after-school care programs for students in failing schools.**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program would be expanded to ensure that all failing schools provide students with an after-school enrichment program. (For more information, see the Center on Education Policy's brief on Gore's proposal for accountability in education at [www.ctredpol.org](http://www.ctredpol.org).)

**2. Expand the federal tax credit for dependent care.**

Parents of children age 19 and younger would be allowed to claim a tax credit of up to 50% of their costs for before and after-school care, with lower income parents receiving a larger tax credit than higher income parents. Currently, parents of children age 13 and younger can receive a tax credit of between 20% and 30% of their child care costs, depending on their income level.

### **What are some questions that can be asked about Gore's proposal?**

- *How will the federal government ensure that the programs funded through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program, especially those in failing schools, are improving student achievement?*
- *Why is the funding for before and after-school programs apparently limited to school districts?*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, contact John F. (Jack) Jennings, director, Center on Education Policy

**THE CENTER ON EDUCATION POLICY** is the independent advocate for public education and for more effective public schools. The Center works to help Americans better understand the role of public education in a democracy and the need to improve the academic quality of public schools. We do not represent any special interests. Instead, we help citizens make sense of the conflicting opinions and perceptions about public education and create the conditions that will lead to better public schools.



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 619, Washington, D.C. 20036

**Phone:** 202-822-8065 **Fax:** 202-822-6008

**Email:** [ctredpol@ctredpol.org](mailto:ctredpol@ctredpol.org) **Web site:** [www.ctredpol.org](http://www.ctredpol.org)

© Center on Education Policy, August 2000