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By giving our children the skills they need to succeed in the jobs of the future, we'll build

a stronger nation for the 21st century. I want to especially thank Vice President Gore, who's done so much to put the future at the fingertips of our children.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 1:40 p.m. on February 26 in the Manager's Office at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco, CA, for later broadcast. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line.

Statement on Internet Accessibility in Classrooms

March 1, 1999

Vice President Gore and I have set a goal of connecting every classroom in America to the Internet by the year 2000. Today I am pleased to announce that new Department of Education data show that more than half of all classrooms are connected—nearly twice as many connections as last year. And thanks to new E-rate discounts that help schools and libraries connect to the Internet, we will reach our goal by the year 2000.

Computers, the Internet, and educational software can make a real difference in the way teachers teach and students learn. Because of our efforts, children in the most isolated inner city or rural town will have access to the same universe of knowledge as a child in the most affluent suburb. Parents will be able to commu-

nicate more frequently with teachers and keep up with the progress of their child in school. Our children will be “technologically literate” and better prepared for the high-tech, high-wage jobs of the future. But we must also make sure that teachers are as comfortable with a computer as they are with the chalkboard. That is why Congress should support my \$800 million educational technology initiative, including more than \$100 million to train teachers in the latest technology.

By giving our children the skills they need to succeed in the jobs of the future, we will build a stronger nation for the 21st century. I particularly want to thank Vice President Gore, who has done so much to put the future at the fingertips of our children.

Statement on the Proposed “Education Accountability Act”

March 1, 1999

Today's news of improvement in achievement for students in high-poverty schools is welcome, but we must not rest until all students meet the challenging standards we set for them. That is why I urge Senators in both parties not only to support this week's vote to put 100,000 new, well-prepared teachers in the classroom but also to enact my “Education Accountability Act.” This act will help move our education system forward by ensuring that States and school districts end social promotion, phase out the use

of unqualified teachers, turn around low-performing schools, provide parents with report cards on schools, and implement effective discipline policies. While our education reform efforts are clearly headed in the right direction, we must take these important steps to close the gap between students and increase the pace of reform.