

## Statement on the Release of School Accountability Funds July 6, 2000

I am pleased that the Education Department announced today the release of the first \$100 million from the Title I School Accountability Fund to help States and school districts turn around low-performing schools. Over the last 7 years we have followed a commonsense reform strategy: invest more in our schools and demand more in return. The funds announced today will support local communities in 31 States and the District of Columbia implement strategies that work to turn around their worst performing schools by implementing a tougher curriculum, helping teachers get the skills and training they need, and, if necessary, closing down a failing school and reopening it under new leadership or as a public charter school.

Today I call on Congress again to enact my budget proposal, which would double the ac-

countability fund to \$250 million; fulfill our commitment to hire 100,000 high-quality teachers to reduce class size in the early grades; build and modernize public schools; and ensure after-school help for every child in a failing school. I also urge Congress to pass my education accountability act, which will enhance the efforts of States, districts, and schools to ensure all of America's children can achieve high standards by focusing on results.

NOTE: The statement referred to the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Title I) (Public Law 103-382), which amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10).

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Generalized System of Preferences July 6, 2000

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby transmit a Proclamation in which I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend preferential treatment for Belarus as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) because Belarus has not taken and is not taking steps to afford workers in Belarus internationally recognized worker rights. The Proclamation also determines that Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia meet the definition of a "high income" country as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Develop-

ment and that therefore they will be graduated from the GSP, effective January 1, 2002.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The proclamation of July 6 amending the Generalized System of Preferences is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.