

Join the  
webcast in  
progress.
[Home](#) [Newscast](#) [Audio](#) [About](#) [Journal](#) [FAQ](#) [Contact](#) [Syndication](#) [ONN RSS Feed](#) [Blog](#) [Search](#) [Donate](#)


Over 70 Faith & Family Channels  
plus Video on Demand  
View Special Offer - [Click Here!](#)

## EDUCATION

[Business](#) [Church](#) [Culture](#) [Education](#) [Legal-Courts](#) [Missions](#) [National Security](#) [Persecution](#) [Perspectives](#) [Politics-Gov't](#)

### Obama and education - less talk, more action

 Pete Chagnon - OneNewsNow - 9/8/2009 1:20:00 PM [ADD THIS](#)

A policy analyst with the Independent Women's Forum says President Barack Obama needs to follow today's educational speech with some action. But The Cato Institute says the president has no authority to be involved in education.



President Obama told students at Wakefield High in a Washington suburb, and children watching on TV at schools nationwide, that "every single one of you has something to offer." He says all the support from teachers and parents will not matter if students do not fulfill their responsibilities.

Although Obama's speech did not include any references to controversial issues such as healthcare reform, one student asked Obama during a small-group meeting before the speech why the country does not have universal health insurance. Obama replied, "I think we need it. I think we can do it." [\(See earlier story with text of speech\)](#)



#### What about educational choice?

On the same day Obama delivered his speech to America's schools, a group in the District of Columbia held protests outside of the Department of Education. The group wants Congress to reinstate the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, which has helped 1,700 students leave underperforming and dangerous inner city schools.

Students who participated in the program have been found to excel in their education and even outperform their peers. However, when Congress cut the funding for the program, 216 scholarship holders had their scholarships rescinded.



Murray

Vicki Murray with the DC-based [Independent Women's Forum](#) says on one hand Obama is encouraging children to excel in school, while on the other he is cutting educational choice in his own backyard.

"What we have going on right now are 216 low-income students who are trying to do exactly what the president was urging all of America's students to do -- namely, take every opportunity [and] use it to the fullest extent of their potential," Murray explains. "And the

president...and his entire administration effectively took that away when they killed the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program."

Murray says the scholarship program was providing children with an excellent education at a fraction of the \$28,000-per-pupil cost of DC public schools. She says there needs to be less talk and more action on the educational front -- and a good place to start, she believes, is with reinstating the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program.

#### No authority?

Obama is not the first president to give such a pep talk as the school year begins. But conservative groups and individuals had accused Obama of stepping too far into local education. School districts in some areas decided not to show his midday speech. In order to quell some of the controversy surrounding Obama's address to schools, the White House released a copy of the speech on Labor Day.

Among the groups expressing concern following the speech is [The Cato Institute](#), which is located in the nation's capital. Neal McClusky of The Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom voiced concern over the content of the speech. [\(Listen to audio report\)](#)

[Hear Report](#) [Email This Story](#) [Print This Story](#)

#### ONENESSNOW VIDEO


[University of Maryland Swine Flu](#)

[Obama Health Care Speech](#)

[Mobile Home Deaths](#)

#### AP LATEST HEADLINES

[Obama tries to build momentum for health overhaul](#)
[NYT reporter freed in raid; Afghan translator dies](#)
[Hurricane Fred becomes a Category 2 storm](#)
[Crews hope to set backfires in Los Angeles blaze](#)
[Appeals court upholds ban on instrumental hymn](#)
[AP Headlines RSS](#)


"This is not as bad a speech as people thought it might be after they read very loaded curriculum guidance from the department of education," he says. "However, if you first of all look at the trappings of the speech -- here is President Obama in front of the big throng, the camera pans around to show all the admiring people, they're playing the president's song, they're playing patriotic American songs on his way out.



"That looked very much, *very much* like a campaign stop that was about President Obama -- not about the kids."

McClusky even questions whether or not the president has the authority or the ability to fix America's school system.

"If you look at the Constitution, the president has no authority to be involved in education, yet now he's essentially the national 'father figure'...he is the national curriculum specialist, he's everything," says McClusky. "And no president can either do that as a practical matter -- really control and provide good education -- and as a constitutional matter, it's not something he is supposed to be involved in at all."

The uproar over the president's speech was caused in part by an accompanying lesson plan -- the "loaded guidance" McClusky refers to -- encouraging students to "help the president." The White House later revised the idea.



Associated Press contributed to this story.

Rate this Story (1 Star = Not so Good -and- 5 Stars = Excellent!)



[View Comments](#)

Other Stories in Education

- [Obama and education - less talk, more action](#)
- [Yale yanks Muslim cartoons](#)
- [Obama to call on students to work hard and overcome difficulties](#)
- [Court sides with persecuted student](#)
- [Obama's upcoming school address illegal?](#)
- [Obama speech: Indoctrination into socialism?](#)
- ['Religious text' issue stalls school's opening](#)
- [Obama's school speech - social indoctrination?](#)
- [German courts target homeschooling families](#)
- [Normalizing transgenderism in schools](#)

**YOUR WORLD NOW**

**U.S.**



- [Springsteen, De Niro among Kennedy Center honorees](#)
- [Former US Rep. Mark Foley to host talk radio show](#)
- [Defendant: CT home invasion trial may need a move](#)
- [ACORN turns in Fla. workers on voter fraud charges](#)
- [Hurricane Fred gets stronger far out over Atlantic](#)

**Business**



- [Union: Goodyear contract protects 6 plants](#)
- [Stocks trading higher as commodities rally](#)
- [European stocks rebound as Wall Street flounders](#)
- [McDonald's sales growth slows in August\(3\)](#)
- [Stocks open lower as commodities rally](#)

**Sports**



- [Testimony resumes in Ky. player death trial\(2\)](#)
- [No failed doping tests at swim worlds](#)
- [UK pardons soccer fan for attempted murder](#)
- [Steelers QB's attorney rejects settlement offer](#)
- [British road race team unveils first members](#)

**World**



- [Israel: anti-assimilation ads yanked over uproar](#)
- [OPEC committee recommends no oil production cut\(2\)](#)
- ['Hillary: The Movie' gets new airing at high court\(4\)](#)
- [US very concerned about Iran's nuclear program\(3\)](#)
- [Obama tries to build momentum for health overhaul\(2\)](#)

**Missions**



- [Kyrgyzstan clamps down on religious education](#)
- [Book ministry bucks the recession trend](#)
- [U.S. cuts aid to Honduras, Compassion unaffected](#)
- [Christians hope to end worms in India](#)
- [Believers in China wait for verdict](#)

- [NEA reveals true stance on homosexual marriage](#)
- [School espouses benefits of phonics-based education](#)
- [Ted Kennedy's educational legacy](#)
- [Court orders Christian student to attend public school](#)
- [Families rally to support, keep up Christian school](#)
- [Too much gov't aid inflates college tuition costs](#)
- [Classical school fights to use Bible in curriculum](#)
- [Sweden outlaws home schooling](#)
- [Community rallies support for accused 'pray-ers'](#)
- [Freedom - the key to education reform](#)

---

If you believe OneNewsNow.com is an important source for Christian news,  
please consider a [small tax-deductible gift](#) for this service.

---

All Original Content Copyright 2006-2008 American Family News Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Policies](#) | [Get the ONN RSS Feed](#) | [Contact Us](#)

"OneNewsNow", "OneNewsNow.com", and the "OneNewsNow World" logo, are Trademarks of the American Family News Network - All Rights Reserved

9/9/2009 9:28:34 AM