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### President Obama to speak to students on Sept. 8

posted by LesliePostal on Sep 2, 2009 12:40:36 PM

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President Barack Obama is slated to give a national address to the country's school children on Sept. 8. The theme of the address is, not surprisingly, the "importance of education."

It is the first such address ever, according to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who sent a letter about it to school principals last week.

The President will challenge students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning," Duncan wrote.

"He will also call for a shared responsibility and commitment on the part of students, parents and educators to ensure that every child in every school receives the best education possible so they can compete in the global economy for good jobs and live rewarding and productive lives as American citizens."

The speech is to be shown live on TV at C-SPAN and online at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

Will local schools be watching?

The planned broadcast has already drawn some complaints. The [Cato Institute](#) (Individual liberty, free markets, peace) sent out a press release this morning titled, "Hey Obama, Leave Those Kids Alone."

The complaint is not that Obama will tout education -- but that Duncan's letter and suggested activities "glorify" Obama and suggest it is the role of public schools to impose values on children, the institute said.

You can find Duncan's letter and suggested activities [here](#).

Filed under: [Back to school](#), [Leslie Postal](#)

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