

Reading Obama

Disclaimer

I am speaking as an interested citizen.

I am NOT speaking on behalf of the Obama administration.

What works vs. Whatever works

Bush more of a “what works”

“Using medicine as their model, they aim to employ rigorous research methods to determine what works, and then to use the force of law and regulation to ensure adoption of these methods throughout the land.”

Obama more of a “whatever works”

“accountability for student learning with flexibility around everything else. Using the entrepreneurial sector as its model, this camp aims to create a marketplace of schools, free to experiment, compete, and improve.”

(Mike Petrilli)

Human Capitalists

Obama insiders are more focused on “human capital” but are suspicious of many of the current ways that we try to improve it (e.g. masters degrees, mentoring)

Arne

- “There’s going to be this extraordinary influx of resources... So people say, ‘You’re going to be the most powerful secretary ever,’ but I have no interest in that. Power has never motivated me. What I love is opportunity, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something special, to drive change, to make our schools better.”

Four Big Opportunities for Reading

- The Stimulus Package
- The reauthorization of NCLB and “the program formerly known as Reading First”
- The reauthorization of IDEA
- New Early Childhood Investments

The Stimulus Package

- This is huge.
- This is now.
- This is a sign that education has a major seat at the table in this administration.
- Nobody really understands it.
- Dept. of Ed hasn't yet shaped it.
- This is a “yes we can” moment for all of us – the department, districts, and states need help making the stimulus stimulating.

Money to Districts

- Title I: \$10 B over 2 years
 - 85% increase over FY 08
- IDEA: \$11.7 B over 2 years
 - 50% increase over FY 08
- Title II, D: \$650 M over 2 years = technology
 - 123% increase over FY 08 (50/50 state/district)
 - Early childhood – 4B for headstart

Formula Money to States

- School Improvement: \$3 B
- Title II, D: \$650 M
- Stabilization: \$53.6 B
 - P16 funds: \$43.84 B
 - Edu &/or other services: \$9.76 B

Competitive Money to States

- IES Data Systems: \$250 M
- Incentive: \$4.35 B
- Innovation (race to the top): \$650 M

IES Longitudinal Data

- \$250 million to be allocated to the Institute of Education Sciences to expand statewide data systems. The House conferees in their earlier report stated, “The panel maintains that **numerous states are experimenting with online assessments that provide instant results for students and teachers and that new computer-assisted assessment tools provide teachers with specific information on the areas where students need help and allow teachers to change their practices and response.**” This suggests at least one major priority in the use of such funds by states.

New Kinds of Collaboration

The big risk in the stimulus package is that the dollars disappear into business as usual.

Ways to transcend this:

rigorous R&D&Do collaborations

consortia to do big things

activism in states and districts