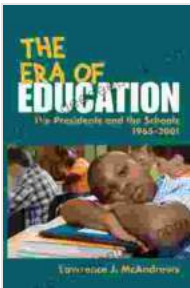


# The Presidents and the Schools, 1965-2001: A Long and Winding Road

The involvement of US presidents in education policy has a long and complex history. From the early days of the republic, presidents have played a role in shaping the nation's education system, through both their public statements and their legislative initiatives. In the 20th century, the federal government's role in education grew significantly, and presidents played an increasingly important role in setting the agenda for education reform.



## The Era of Education: The Presidents and the Schools, 1965-2001 by Lawrence J. McAndrews

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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The period from 1965 to 2001 was a particularly tumultuous time in the history of education policy. During this period, the federal government enacted a number of major education reforms, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, and the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) of 2010.

These reforms had a profound impact on the nation's schools, and they continue to be debated today.

In this article, we will examine the key education initiatives and policies of each president from 1965 to 2001. We will also discuss the broader context of social and political change that shaped education policy during this period.

## **Lyndon B. Johnson**

Lyndon B. Johnson was a strong supporter of education, and he believed that the federal government had a responsibility to ensure that all Americans had access to quality education. During his presidency, Johnson signed into law the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, which provided billions of dollars in federal funding for education. ESEA was a landmark piece of legislation, and it had a profound impact on the nation's schools.

Johnson also created the Head Start program, which provides early childhood education to disadvantaged children. Head Start has been shown to have a positive impact on children's long-term educational success.

## **Richard Nixon**

Richard Nixon was not as enthusiastic about education as Johnson, but he did support some important education initiatives. In 1972, he signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which guaranteed a free public education to all children with disabilities.

Nixon also created the National Institute of Education, which conducts research on education policy.

## **Gerald Ford**

Gerald Ford was a strong supporter of school choice, and he proposed a number of policies to promote school choice, including tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools.

Ford also signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act Amendments of 1975, which expanded the rights of children with disabilities.

## **Jimmy Carter**

Jimmy Carter was a strong advocate for education, and he believed that the federal government had a responsibility to ensure that all Americans had access to quality education. During his presidency, Carter created the Department of Education, which oversees federal education programs.

Carter also signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act Amendments of 1977, which further expanded the rights of children with disabilities.

## **Ronald Reagan**

Ronald Reagan was a strong supporter of school choice, and he proposed a number of policies to promote school choice, including vouchers for parents who send their children to private schools.

Reagan also signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act Amendments of 1983, which further expanded the rights of children

with disabilities.

## **George H.W. Bush**

George H.W. Bush was a strong supporter of education, and he believed that the federal government had a responsibility to ensure that all Americans had access to quality education. During his presidency, Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

Bush also created the Goals 2000 program, which was designed to improve student achievement in mathematics and science.

## **Bill Clinton**

Bill Clinton was a strong advocate for education, and he believed that the federal government had a responsibility to ensure that all Americans had access to quality education. During his presidency, Clinton signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001, which was a major education reform initiative.

NCLB required states to develop and implement standards for student achievement, and it held schools accountable for meeting those standards. NCLB was a controversial initiative, but it had a significant impact on the nation's schools.

## **The Legacy of Presidential Involvement in Education Policy**

The involvement of US presidents in education policy has had a profound impact on the nation's schools. The policies that presidents have enacted have shaped the curriculum, the way that schools are funded, and the way that teachers are trained.

The legacy of presidential involvement in education policy is a mixed one. Some presidents have made significant contributions to education, while others have hindered progress. However, there is no doubt that presidents have played a major role in shaping the nation's education system.

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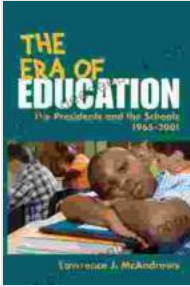
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