

[Committee Print]

REPORT OF OVERSIGHT PLAN  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

MR. BOEHNER, from the Committee on Education and the Workforce, submitted to the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration the following.

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OVERSIGHT PLAN  
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1. House Rule X 2(d)(1)

Each standing committee of the House is required to adopt formally an oversight plan at the beginning of each year. Specifically, Rule X, 2(d)(1) states in part:

*[E]ach standing committee of the House shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plan for that Congress. Such plan shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Government Reform and to the Committee on House Administration.*

2. Jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Rule X of the Rules of the House vests in the Committee on Education and the Workforce (Committee) with jurisdiction over issues dealing with students, education, workers, and workplace policy.

1. *Child Labor.*
2. *Gallaudet University and Howard University and Hospital.*
3. *Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce.*
4. *Food programs for children in schools.*
5. *Labor standards and statistics.*
6. *Education or labor generally.*
7. *Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes.*
8. *Regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract.*
9. *Workers' compensation.*
10. *Vocational rehabilitation.*
11. *Wages and hours of labor.*
12. *Welfare of miners.*
13. *Work incentive program.*

Accordingly, the Committee is responsible for overseeing approximately 24,000 federal employees and more than \$125 billion in annual spending. More importantly, it is charged with evaluating whether federal education programs are contributing favorably to our children's education, whether we are creating a process of life-long learning, and whether we are

developing workplace policies that encourage the most productive and competitive workplaces in the world.

### 3. General Oversight Responsibilities

According to House Rule X 2(a):

*The various standing committees shall have general oversight responsibilities as provided in paragraph (b) in order to assist the House in – (1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of –*

*(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of Federal laws; and*

*(B) conditions and circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and*

*(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of changes in Federal laws, and of such additional legislation as may be necessary or appropriate.*

*(b)(1) In order to determine whether laws and programs addressing subjects within the jurisdiction of a committee are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated, each standing committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) shall review and study on a continuing basis –*

*(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction;*

*(B) the organization and operation of Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within its jurisdiction.*

### 4. Exercise of Oversight Responsibilities

The Committee takes seriously its responsibility to conduct oversight and investigations. The Committee is therefore committed to ensuring that government agencies, departments and programs within its jurisdiction:

- Focus on an appropriate federal mission;
- Work in an effective and efficient manner; and,
- Consistently follow Congressional intent in their respective activities and operations.

Accordingly and in keeping with the Rules of the House and the principles of oversight and investigations, the Committee has identified 6 major projects for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. These projects are:

- **Financial Management in the Department of Education:** In early 2001, results from both a fraud audit and agency-wide audit of the Department of Education will be available to the Committee. This information, as well as a recent whistleblower disclosure report from the Office of Special Counsel, can be used to establish a baseline regarding the financial status of

the Department. The Committee intends to work with the new Administration to measure its own progress in implementing needed corrective actions.

- **Department of Labor Issues:** Numerous issues examined in the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, including the administration of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and other enforcement and regulatory issues, warrant continued review in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, with the goal of increasing worker safety and creating a less adversarial relationship between enforcement agencies and American employers. The Committee will also continue to monitor the rights of rank-and-file membership in labor unions.
- **Twenty-First Century Workforce Issues:** The Committee intends to conduct expansive oversight into the effectiveness and enforcement of the nation's labor, pension, and benefits laws to ensure they are compatible with the New Economy and meet demands of both the workforce and employers.
- **Welfare Reform:** The Committee will review the success of the work components of the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, specifically the Act's effectiveness in moving welfare recipients into employment and toward self-sufficiency. The Committee will also examine how well these programs are being coordinated with other job placement programs.
- **Elementary and Secondary Education Reform:** Following projects initiated in prior Congresses, the Committee intends to continue its oversight efforts and monitor effectiveness of the federal government's education programs. The Committee will examine innovative and successful state and local programs, and determine how federal regulations promote or inhibit effectiveness and the integral components of successful schools.
- **Higher Education:** The Committee intends to examine thoroughly the laws and regulations governing the Higher Education Act, with a goal of reducing regulatory burdens on institutions and ultimately costs to the student. In addition, the Committee will also work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions to review ways to strengthen and improve aid to these institutions.

**In addition, the Committee reserves the right to review and investigate general legislative, administrative and regulatory issues affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee.**