

What does the 2010 President's budget say about evaluation?

Content taken from "A New Era of Responsibility: Renewing America's Promise"

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/A_New_Era_of_Responsibility2.pdf

Help At-Risk Students Complete College.

It is not enough for our Nation to enroll more students in college; we also need to graduate more students from college. A few States and institutions have begun to experiment with these efforts to accomplish this, but there is much more they can do. The Budget includes a new five-year, \$2.5 billion Access and Completion Incentive Fund to support innovative State efforts to help low-income students succeed and complete their college education. *The program will include a rigorous evaluation component to ensure that we learn from what works.* (pages 24-25)

Invest in innovations and in What Works.

While it is important to increase support for education, it is also critical to invest in learning which programs are effective and in growing the ones that are. Through the Innovation Fund, the Administration will invest in school systems and non-profit organizations with demonstrated track records of success in raising student achievement to expand their work or implement new innovative approaches...*The Budget also increases funding for rigorous evaluation in a first step toward doubling the Department of Education's support for education research. The Department's Institute of Education Sciences will use this funding to conduct rigorous evaluations of approaches to improve student learning and achievement with a focus on evaluating and scaling up promising innovative practices.* (page 25)

Eliminating Education Programs With Records of Low Performance.

When it comes to educating our children, we cannot afford to waste a dollar. The Administration proposes to immediately terminate, or intensively review with an expectation of overhauling or terminating, a series of small Education Department programs. Many of these programs have long provided funding for narrowly focused curricula, staffing choices, or school types. *None has strong evidence to justify this support; the programs either have never been seriously evaluated or have received weak evaluations;* and the programs often could be funded in competitive funding streams that could require evidence of results. (pages 35-36)

Put Performance first.

The President is *creating a focused team* within the White House that will work with agency leaders and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to improve results and outcomes for Federal Government programs while eliminating waste and inefficiency. This unit will be composed of top-performing and highly-trained Government professionals and will be *headed by a new Chief Performance Officer (CPO). The CPO will work with Federal agencies to set tough performance targets and hold managers responsible for progress.* The President will meet regularly with cabinet officers to review the progress their agencies are making toward meeting performance improvement targets. (page 39)

Enforce Standards in Addition to Measuring Performance.

The Administration will fundamentally reconfigure the Program Assessment rating Tool. We will open up the insular performance measurement process to the public, the Congress and outside experts. The Administration will eliminate ideological performance goals and replace them with goals Americans care about and that are based on congressional intent and feedback from the people served by Government programs. Programs will not be measured in isolation, but assessed in the context of other programs that are serving the same population or meeting the same goals. (page 39)

Strengthens the Management Capacity of the Corporation [for National and Community Service].

The Budget provides needed resources to strengthen the capacity of CNCS to manage its programs, measure performance, and conduct rigorous evaluations of the impact of CNCS programs. Coupled with a strong Administration commitment to management reform, the Budget will ensure that CNCS can support both growth and excellence in service. (page 112)