

# Prez rips Apple schools for spending only \$44 of every \$8,000 on books

By DEBORAH ORIN  
Washington Bureau Chief  
PALISADES, N.Y. — President Clinton ripped New York City's school priorities as a "disgrace" yesterday — saying officials spend too much on bureaucracy and not enough on teaching.

"If it is true that New York City spends \$8,000 a

student on education but only \$44 goes to books and other classroom materials, that's a disgrace, that's wrong," Clinton told an education summit of governors from around the nation.

Citing figures from a national audit of school spending provided by the federal Education Department, the president said

the city is "spending way too much money on administration and too little money on education."

Clinton also pointed to reports that it can cost New York \$200,000 "to dismiss a teacher who is incompetent" as a proof of the need to tighten standards.

"We should do more to

reward good teachers, we should have a system that is fair to teachers but moves much more expeditiously and much more cheaply in holding teachers accountable," he said.

The Board of Education had no immediate comment on Clinton's attack. But Mayor Giuliani — who has cited bureaucratic bloat as a prime reason to abolish the board and give him more power over schools — quickly chimed in that Clinton was too gentle.

"It's even worse than that because New York City doesn't spend \$8,000 per student, New York City spends about \$5,000 in mainstream education and \$22,000 per student in special ed," Giuliani said.

Gov. Pataki, who was attending his father's funeral at the time of Clinton's speech, has also blasted the board for excessive bureaucracy.

Clinton's attacks on New York's school spending were among the few specifics in his speech, which called for tougher standards. It was fuzzy on whether they should be national, an idea that most governors — 31 of whom are Republican — oppose.

Clinton downplayed his support for the controversial Goals 2000 national standards, whose history guidelines were slammed by critics who said they showed anti-Western bias.

Republican nominee-to-be Bob Dole gets loud applause on the campaign trail for blasting Goals

2000 — drafted under a program that Clinton signed into law in 1994 — for "meddling and politically correct dogma."

The president got a polite but skeptical response from the governors. Most of the Republicans agree that a prime way to improve education is kill the Education Department and its mandates.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge said a "glaring omission" was the fact that Clinton "skirted around the teachers' unions," which Ridge contends are "the single greatest impediment to real change in education..."

"What would take real courage would be for him to go tell the NEA [teachers union] that there will be no more tenure and they'll have to get recertified. The president begs the question."

Clinton suggested the governors "should set the standards" for educational achievement and oppose promotion of students who can't meet pass achievement tests.

But at the same time, he hinted at a vague kind of national standards.

"Being promoted ought to mean more or less the same thing in Pasadena, Calif., that it does in Palisades, N.Y.," he said.

Connecticut Gov. John Rowland said: "It was a warned-over campaign speech. The devil is always in the details — and he won't be there for the details. We want little or no federal involvement."



Learn This President Clinton had some harsh words for the city's Board of Ed at an education summit yesterday in upstate Palisades.

New York Post: Dan Cronin

BUCKS vs. BOOKS

Total  
\$7,918.00

What  
NYC  
schools  
spent per  
pupil in  
1993-94

Instructional  
materials  
and  
supplies  
\$44.00

THE \$7,918 BREAKDOWN

NYC Public Schools 1993-94	
Functions	\$ per pupil
<b>Instructional Teachers</b>	<b>\$3,275</b>
Administrative	\$740
Other	
Maintenance	\$590
Transportation	\$517
Contracts	
Secretaries and Paraprofessionals	\$433
Instructional Professionals	\$413
Schools Contracted Services	\$375
Food Service Delivery	\$315
Debt Service	\$313
Social Workers and Psychologists	\$243
Safety & Health	\$178
Assistant Principals	\$156
Guidance & Counseling	\$136
Principals	\$88
Substitute Teachers	\$54
<b>Instructional Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>\$44</b>
Chancellor plus management	\$13
Data Processing	\$8

# Teachers, parents agree funding is 'woeful'

By JACKIE ROTHENBERG  
Educators agreed yesterday with President Clinton's condemnation of city school spending — saying New York is shamefully tight-fisted when it comes to buying books and classroom materials.

The city spends so little on materials that public school teachers have to dig into their own pockets to buy them, said Ron Davis, spokesman for the United Federation of Teachers.

On average, teachers spend more than \$200 a year on books and materials, Davis said.

Davis said funding for classroom supplies is "woefully inadequate" and that education must be viewed as more of a priority in the city.

"This has long been a problem in our school system compared with school districts in the rest of the state," he said.

Davis said school districts elsewhere base funding on

property taxes. But in the city, teachers must rely on City Hall and the Board of Education to determine funding.

Dave Begel, Board of Ed spokesman, said the fact that an emergency book drive is now under way in the private sector shows that "clearly, something is amiss."

Begel said Clinton was right in his assessment and blamed the problem on a serious budget crunch.

"We're operating in very tough budget times, but at some point, people have to stop and say time out," he said.

Ayo Harrington, president of the United Parents Associations, said the amount of money spent on educating children is "appalling."

"This system and our society does not take seriously the education of our children," she said.

Board member Jerry Cammarata said more money must be allocated if students are going to be able to com-

**"This system and our society does not take seriously the education of our children."**

AYO HARRINGTON



CAMMARATA

Allocate more money.

Davis said the teachers union was obligated to defend members brought up on charges, no matter how long the process takes.

"It's not our responsibility to keep tabs on the cost," he said. "It should be the board's concern."

He said most teachers try to have their cases resolved quickly so they can get back inside a classroom, but the delays by and large stem from the Board of Education

not being prepared to move forward with these hearings on a timely basis."

Cammarata said teachers deserve a fair hearing, but "if we can expedite and cut costs at the same time, that's what needs to be done."

Clinton also called for students to pass competency tests before entering high school rather than receive "a diploma they can't read."

Cammarata and Harrington said other steps should be taken first.

Cammarata suggested students be tested at each grade level to ensure their readiness to move on.

Harrington said the first order of business should be looking at why students fail. She also called for greater accountability on the part of teachers.

Begel declined comment on competency tests, but noted that Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew and the president agree on the importance of ensuring that children are able to read by the third grade.