



I am committed to improving our nation's education system for everyone. The quality of education for our young people is critically important to our country's future. Our children need to be prepared to compete in the 21st century global economy, and the only way to make this happen is through education reform and accountability. Education is the key to America's future and it must be one of our nation's top priorities, as it is for me.

We need common sense improvements to No Child Left Behind. Our education system must include accountability methods, so that we can measure both student and teacher achievement, which I believe begins with the states and local communities. Every community and every school is different. That is why we should give the power back to local administrators and parents, so that they can make the appropriate decisions for their children and students. The fundamental reality is that students have different learning needs and they occur at different times.

It is time to reduce the size and scope of the federal role in education. We need to encourage innovation and flexibility, and not stand in the way of new ideas. Instead of the usual one-size-fits all approach that has been the standard operating procedure in the past, the House Education & Workforce Committee will aim to advance a series of targeted reform bills, designed to address the challenges facing the nation's education system.

For example, in September 2011, the House passed its first education reform bill, [H.R. 2218 "The Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act."](#)

This legislation which modernizes the existing federal Charter School Program, which supports the replication, expansion, and facility development of high-quality charter schools in America.

In addition to new education initiatives, it is important to remember that I have always been a strong supporter of the Impact Aid Program, which provides funding to schools, where federal operations, such as military bases, national parks, and tribal lands cut into the local tax base. This is something that has been important to Bellevue, Nebraska, and is something that I have supported during my entire time in Congress.