



Class Struggle

Jay Mathews, Education Columnist

[Excerpt only]

Why the Next Education President Will Be Like Bush

By *Jay Mathews*

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Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Barack Obama (D-Ill.) seem to be very different people, with contrasting views of President Bush. But if you examine carefully what they say they want to do about schools, it is just more of the same.

To me, that's good. I am among the majority of Americans who support the thrust of the No Child Left Behind law. I might have problems with parts of it, but it is a useful bipartisan law and mostly makes sense. The leaders of both parties, and most Americans, want schools to be accountable to parents and voters. That cannot happen without the No Child Left Behind mandate to test students regularly, make results public and motivate lagging schools to get better.

Opinion polls indicate at least half of teachers don't like the law, but its political strength is obvious. Its political strength is obvious. I know of no major politician who has won an election campaigning against No Child Left Behind. Anyone who tries is going to hear this from every opponent: "Oh, so you DON'T want our schools to be accountable? We have to show progress at our jobs. Why shouldn't our kids' teachers do the same?"

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