

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL ANNOUNCES NEW EDUCATION BUDGET FOR 1990

WASHINGTON D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II (D-W. Va.) announced today that the House Appropriations Committee has approved a full billion dollar-plus increase for the popular and highly successful remedial education programs known as Chapter 1.

"Appropriations levels for FY 1990 reached the unprecedented level of \$5.580 billion for educating economically and educationally disadvantaged children," said Rahall. "However, equally impressive is the fact that the Chapter 1 concentration grants were also increased to \$495.7 million, an increase of \$322.8 million over last year's funding."

Concentration grants are formula funded and are intended to go to economically distressed areas with high concentrations of poor children in schools. This formula, unlike many others that direct funding for education, better serves West Virginia's children from low-income families.

Rahall also announced that of the \$5 billion allotted for this program, 99 percent of the funding must go directly to the local education agencies for direct services to children. The other 1 percent will go for state administrative purposes.

"In this way," he concluded, "we make certain that 99 percent of each federal education dollar actually goes to children in need of remedial education, such as math, reading and writing, that will allow them to keep up with their peers."

Rahall, a member of the Education and Labor Committee, went on to say that the programs are carefully and deliberately crafted to increase the achievement of educationally disadvantaged children in more than 14,000 school districts nationwide. He concluded by saying that the funds will become available in July 1990 and remain available until Sept. 30, 1991. School districts are expected to use the funds primarily for the 1990-91 school year.

"So much has been said and so many things promised that we tend to become skeptical when we talk of improving education," said Rahall. "However, it is beginning to look as if the 'year of education' may finally be at hand."

-- 30 --