



The Democratic Party: Real Values—Fighting for American Families

“For four years, we’ve heard a lot of talk about values. But values spoken without actions taken are just slogans. Values are...what we live by. They’re about the causes we champion and the people we fight for”

John Kerry, Nomination Acceptance Speech, DNC Convention 7/29/04

George Bush Has Not Left Families Better Off Than Four Years Ago

Did you know that since Bush took office:

- ❖ Median household income fell 3.3%, for a loss of \$1,439 per household?
- ❖ The new jobs offer salaries averaging \$8,000 less than the old jobs and require less education?
- ❖ Number of Americans living in poverty increased 1.3 million to 35.9 million?
- ❖ The number of unemployed has increased by 2.4 million?
- ❖ The number of workers who have lost unemployment insurance since December ‘02 is 760,000?
- ❖ People without health insurance, including 11.4% of all children, increased by 1.4 million from 2002 to 2003?
- ❖ Out-of-pocket health care costs for workers have risen 50%?

And What Is the Bush Administration Doing About It?

Bush takes aim at **working families and their children** by:

- ❖ Opposing childcare funding, while increasing work requirements for welfare parents. In 2003, 550,000 children were on childcare program waiting lists in 23 states.
- ❖ Kicking kids out of after-school programs which have been shown to increase academic achievement and reduce rates of criminal activity and drug use. These programs are essential to the more than 28 million school-age children whose parents work outside the home.

Bush is **leaving America’s children behind** by:

- ❖ Cutting federal funding for Head Start, moving it to state programs, and denying enrollment to 40% of the eligible children eligible.
- ❖ Underfunding ‘No Child Left Behind’ programs by \$8 billion, including \$1.3 billion in California, and repeatedly failing to fund Title I programs for low-income families.
- ❖ Cutting billions of dollars in federal assistance to college students, despite the fact that since Bush took office, fees at public colleges have increased an average 35%. He broke a campaign promise to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,100.

And did you know that federal tax cuts during the past 2 fiscal years totaled \$478 billion, while Department of Education spending increased only \$9.4 billion? A ratio of more than 50 to 1!

“Results Matter”
-President George W. Bush

The Democrat Party and John Kerry Agree!
And Our Actions Will Speak Louder Than Words!

John Kerry Will Help Working Families

- Kerry's Plan increases the child-care tax credit to \$5,000, makes it available for moderate-income families and stay-at-home parents, and makes it partially refundable.
- Kerry's Plan creates "School's Open 'Til 6" programs after school for 3.5 million youths, up by more than 2 million kids from today's level. This program will be based on three principles: Parent-friendly, Values-based (helping children avoid drugs, crime, and trouble), Education-oriented (tutoring academics, plus enrichment in the arts).

John Kerry Will Actually ENSURE that No Child is Left Behind

- Kerry's Plan creates a National Education Trust Fund, mandating that new education programs authorized by Congress will be funded. He will fully fund the 'No Child Left Behind Act,' adding about \$10 billion per year to hire more teachers, shrink class size, offer more students more individualized help, better involve parents, and offer more after-school and preschool opportunities.
- Kerry's Plan offers support for states to use sophisticated tests that capture the full range of skills students need to develop and ensure accurate assessments of each school's success. The plan includes extra help for schools that fall short.
- Kerry's Plan includes recruiting and/or retaining 500,000 high-quality teachers over the next four years by offering more pay hikes in high-need areas, better training and career development opportunities, asking for more rigorous tests for new teachers, and rewarding teachers who excel at improving student achievement.
- Kerry's Plan invests in school construction and modernization through \$24.8 billion of federal government bonds.

John Kerry's Plan Offers MORE Than Empty Promises for Families

Real Values Means Real Plans to Help Families
John Kerry and the Democrats:
Taking Action for American Families

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For more information:

<http://sccdp.org/education.php>

<http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/education/>

<http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/families/>