



Education

June 27, 2004

## High Praise

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Florida residents should know that education reform in the Sunshine State is getting national attention -- favorable, for the most part.

A sample in an e-mail newsletter from the Fordham Foundation's Chester Finn, a former assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Education:

"During a recent visit, I was, frankly, wowed by the comprehensiveness and courage of Florida's education reforms, and depressed by the crummy coverage they're getting in both state and national press..."

Finn correctly surmised that coverage in the adversary press may be influenced by the relationship of the governor to the incumbent president.

Of Gov. Jeb Bush, Finn said, "He is, by the way, one of the half-dozen smartest,

savviest, gutsiest 'education governors' I've met in the past quarter century."

Finn praised the most recent reform, which is to certify teachers who pass entry-level tests of the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence. That will help meet the need for additional teachers caused, in part, by the classroom size reduction mandate.

Florida is making progress in education reform. School choice is helping thousands of children get an education, and saving taxpayers millions of dollars. Among those who deserve credit are Bush, Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings, Education Commissioner Jim Horne, former commissioner Frank Brogan, former House Speaker John Thrasher and businessman John Kirtley.

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