The original documents are located in Box 24, “3/1/76 - Recorded Remarks on Public Education” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN.

BROADCAST MESSAGE ON EDUCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976
IN THE PAST DECADE, WHILE EDUCATION HAS REMAINED A LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY, WE HAVE RESPONDED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS PERCEIVED TO BE OF NATIONAL SCOPE. WE HAVE TRIED TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. BUT IN THE PROCESS WE HAVE ALSO CREATED A HEAVY BURDEN OF REGULATIONS AND RED TAPE.
TOO OFTEN WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES ASKING

WHETHER FEDERAL FORMS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY FILLED OUT,

NOT WHETHER CHILDREN HAVE BEEN PROPERLY EDUCATED.
THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A TENDENCY TOWARD GREATER CENTRAL CONTROL OVER DECISIONS WHICH SHOULD BE MADE BY LOCAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS.

THE TIME HAS COME TO PROVIDE FEDERAL SUPPORT WITHOUT FEDERAL IMPEDIMENTS.
FOR THAT REASON, I AM PROPOSING TODAY THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT. IT WOULD CONSOLIDATE 24 EXISTING PROGRAMS INTO ONE BLOCK GRANT.
THE FOCUS OF MY PROPOSAL WILL BE ON IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS -- THE HANDICAPPED AND THE EDUCATIONALLY DEPRIVED.

FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A MINIMUM OF FEDERAL REGULATION AND A MAXIMUM OF LOCAL CONTROL.
EDUCATION NEEDS CAN BE MET MOST EFFECTIVELY

BY GIVING PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THE TOOLS TO DO

THE JOB WELL.
UNDER THE LEGISLATION I PROPOSE, EVERY STATE WILL RECEIVE AT LEAST AS MUCH MONEY FOR THE CONSOLIDATED PROGRAM AS IT DID IN FISCAL YEAR 1976 FOR THE EXISTING PROGRAMS. I AM REQUESTING A TOTAL OF 3.3 BILLION DOLLARS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1977. I AM ALSO PROPOSING THAT THE PROGRAM GROW BY 200 MILLION DOLLARS IN EACH OF THE NEXT THREE FISCAL YEARS.
FOR TOO LONG, THE REAL ISSUE IN OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS -- FEDERAL VERSUS LOCAL CONTROL -- HAS BEEN OBSCURED BY DEBATE OVER FUNDING LEVELS. HOPEFULLY, WITH THE FUNDING LEVELS I AM PROPOSING, WE CAN DIRECT THE DEBATE WHERE IT BELONGS -- TO REFORM OF OUR EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS.
I URGE THE CONGRESS TO ACT QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY ON MY PROPOSAL, TO HELP ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN.