

I am pleased that the Obama Administration recently agreed, after several years of opposition, to fully implement the highly successful [DC School Choice Program](#) that was [reauthorized and expanded](#) last year. After President Obama initially refused to fund this important program, House Speaker John Boehner and Independent Senator Joe Lieberman reached an agreement with the Administration to ensure continued funding and growth in enrollment over the next five years.

Under this education initiative, over 3,000 children from lower-income families have received financial support to attend high-performing private schools of their parents' choice. It costs less per student than traditional federal support for the DC public school system, and it is very popular among parents. Most important, participating students have significantly higher graduation rates than similar students attending public schools.

Sadly, the Washington, DC public schools, and many others like them, have consistently failed to provide children the educational opportunities needed for success despite some of the highest levels of funding in the nation. The DC School Choice Program provides the brighter outcome that children from lower-income families so desperately need, and I believe it can serve as a blueprint for similar educational reforms throughout our nation.