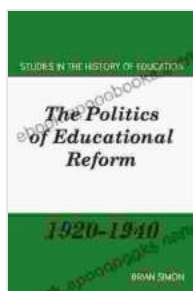


# The Presidents, Congress, and the Public Schools: A Historical Perspective



The relationship between the presidents, Congress, and the public schools in the United States is a long and complex one. Over the years, these three entities have interacted in a variety of ways, and these interactions have shaped the development of public education in the country.



## Presidents, Congress, and the Public Schools: The Politics of Education Reform by Jack Jennings

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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The first public schools in the United States were established in the early 19th century. At the time, there was little federal involvement in education, and the states and local communities were responsible for providing for the education of their children. However, as the country grew and the population became more mobile, the need for a more standardized system of education became apparent.

In 1867, Congress passed the first major piece of legislation dealing with public education, the Morrill Land-Grant Act. This act provided for the establishment of land-grant colleges in each state, which were to offer instruction in agriculture and the mechanical arts. The Morrill Act was followed by a number of other federal laws that provided funding for public schools, including the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The involvement of the federal government in public education has not been without controversy. Some argue that the federal government should play a more active role in ensuring that all students have access to a quality education. Others argue that the federal government should not be involved in education at all, and that this is a matter that should be left to the states and local communities.

The debate over the role of the federal government in public education is likely to continue for many years to come. However, one thing is clear: the relationship between the presidents, Congress, and the public schools is a complex and important one that has shaped the development of public education in the United States.

## **The Presidents and the Public Schools**

The presidents of the United States have played a significant role in the development of public education in the country. George Washington, in his Farewell Address, urged the nation to establish a "national university" and to promote "the means of education." Thomas Jefferson believed that public education was essential for a democratic society, and he founded the University of Virginia.

In the 20th century, presidents such as Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson all made significant contributions to public education. Wilson signed the Smith-Hughes Act into law, which provided federal funding for vocational education. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which provided jobs for young people and also built many public schools. Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law, which provided federal funding for disadvantaged students.

In recent years, presidents have continued to play an important role in public education. President George W. Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act into law, which required states to test students annually and to make schools accountable for student achievement. President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law, which provided funding for public schools.

## **Congress and the Public Schools**

Congress has also played a significant role in the development of public education in the United States. In addition to passing the Morrill Land-Grant Act, Smith-Hughes Act, and Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Congress has also passed a number of other laws that have affected public education, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Congress's involvement in public education has not been without controversy. Some argue that Congress should play a more active role in ensuring that all students have access to a quality education. Others argue that Congress should not be involved in education at all, and that this is a matter that should be left to the states and local communities.

The debate over the role of Congress in public education is likely to continue for many years to come. However, one thing is clear: Congress has played a significant role in shaping the development of public education in the United States.

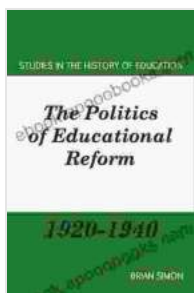
## **The Public Schools and the Public**

The public schools in the United States are a reflection of the values and priorities of the American people. The public schools are a place where all children, regardless of their race, religion, or socioeconomic status, can learn and grow. The public schools are also a place where students can develop the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in life.

The public schools are not without their challenges. However, the public schools remain a vital part of American society. The public schools provide a safe and supportive environment for students to learn and grow. The

public schools also provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in life.

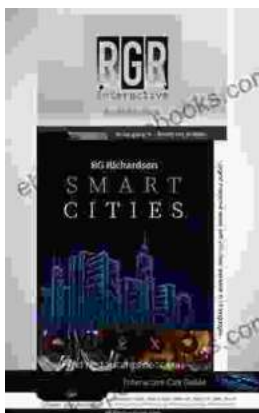
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