

NEWS RELEASE

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CLARK CALLS FOR EDUCATION TAX CREDITS

Campaigning in Orlando, Florida, Libertarian Presidential Candidate, Ed Clark, called the Nation's public school system "a disgrace" and urged adoption of his proposal for education tax credits. "We need to open education up to some competition, and we need to do it now", Clark said. Clark's plan calls for a \$1,200 Federal income tax credit for anyone who pays for the education of students in private, parochial or alternative schools. His plan would also permit corporations to offset a percentage of their income tax liability if they provided for the education of children whose parents do not earn enough to utilize the full \$1,200 tax credit. "For the first time" Clark said, "quality education would be available to lower and middle income American families". Clark cited the recently released scores in the scholastic aptitude tests which showed declines in both verbal and math skills for the eighteenth consecutive year. "How much longer can we tolerate this situation", Clark asked. "The public schools have failed our children and until we institute an alternative program, so have we", he said. Clark said that despite declining student enrollment and increased spending per pupil, in real terms (after adjusting for

inflation), "the quality of public education continues to deteriorate. "Many inner city schools are more like prisons than schools and most public schools are breeding grounds for crime and violence", he said. Clark said that he favors the eventual separation of government and education "for precisely the same reasons we have the separation of church and state". Clark also called for an end to compulsory attendance laws which, he said "prevent students who are serious about learning from getting an education because of the disruption caused by students who don't care". Clark will close out the campaign week in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, where he will tape a joint appearance with Citizens Party Candidate, Barry Commoner for a cable news network program.