

# Educating the “Education President”

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As president, I will work with our nation’s governors and educators to create and use assessments that can improve achievement all across America by including the kinds of research, scientific investigation, and problem-solving that our children will need to compete in a 21st-century knowledge economy.

—Obama in Thornton,  
Colorado, May 28, 2008

With multiple hope-filled speeches about how he would turn around the economy that had been ravaged by corporate wilding, the immediate pulling out of U.S. troops from the Middle East, and giving every child a quality education, Barack Obama created an aura of change in 2008 that seemed real and authentic. As we near the three-year anniversary of the astonishing 2008 election that put Obama into the Oval Office, talks abound about his ineffective leadership as a progressive president. The economy is still limping along, at best, with over 14 million unemployed persons (up 545,000 since March 2011) (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2011), tens of thousands of troops are still in Afghanistan, and schools all across the country are unable to stop the hemorrhaging from major budget cuts. Indeed, progressives are calling for the president to live up to his campaign promises of creating a more democratic society where the culture of cut-throat competition and emphasis on personal accountability are replaced by cooperation and a bottom-up approach to building a community.





# GRADING THE 44<sup>th</sup> PRESIDENT

A Report Card on Barack Obama's  
First Term as a Progressive Leader

Luigi Esposito and Lauren Finley, Editors

Foreword by Leonard Pitts

