

The *Madison Policy Digest*

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Presented by: **The James Madison Institute**

News Briefs

* The James Madison Institute, along with The Foundation for Excellence in Education, will be hosting Excellence in Action on June 19-20 in Orlando, FL. The event will be a national education summit for policymakers and agents of change who share a passion for transforming education across America. The best and the brightest will converge in the Sunshine State to discuss research, lessons learned, success stories and strategy for the next round of education reforms.

For more information or to register please visit:

<http://www.excelined.org/Program/ViewPage.aspx?pr=4&pc=21>

Featured Topics

**POWER DEALING
PAR FOR THE COURSE
FIGHTING THE INEVITABLE
DE-KLEINING REALITY**

JEA looks at nuclear power deal

Florida Times-Union

By Steve Patterson

May 13, 2008

Worried about greenhouse gases, JEA wants to sign a 20-year contract to buy electricity from a planned new nuclear power plant outside Augusta, Ga.

It would be one of the first new nuclear plants licensed in the United States in decades.

The deal would make JEA less dependent on fossil fuels at a time when climate change is becoming a greater concern, said Gregg Quick, JEA's director of corporate planning.

For complete article click here:

http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/051408/met_278730417.shtml

Study gives Fla. C-plus on No Child Left Behind standards

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

May 12, 2008

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida rated a C-plus for difficulty on reading and math tests used to meet requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act last year, a study released Monday showed.

Florida's score was good enough for a 12th-place tie in the national study by Stanford University's Hoover Institution, a well-funded conservative think tank. The report rated proficiency standards for fourth and eighth grade tests for what the federal government calls the Nation's Report Card, which compares achievement levels among states.

For complete article click here: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20080512/APN/805120951>

Fla. teachers union will challenge voucher amendments

By Bill Kaczor
May 14, 2008

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida's statewide teachers union will sue to keep off the ballot two proposals designed to expand vouchers that let students attend private schools at public expense, the group's spokesman said Wednesday.

The proposed state constitutional amendments are designed to undo a pair of court rulings striking down one voucher program and protect others existing now or created in the future from similar legal challenges.

For complete article click here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/775/story/535891.html>

Opinion

The Klein Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Polemics

Cato Institute
By Johan Norberg
May 14, 2008

Naomi Klein's *The Shock Doctrine* purports to be an exposé of the ruthless nature of free-market capitalism and its chief recent exponent, Milton Friedman. Klein argues that capitalism goes hand in hand with dictatorship and brutality and that dictators and other unscrupulous political figures take advantage of "shocks"—catastrophes real or manufactured—to consolidate their power and implement unpopular market reforms. Klein cites Chile under General Augusto Pinochet, Britain under Margaret Thatcher, China during the Tiananmen Square crisis, and the ongoing war in Iraq as examples of this process.

For complete article click here: http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=9384

Quote of the Week

But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.

-John Adams

Cartoon of the Week



Ed Gamble, *The Florida Times-Union*

Speakers' Bureau

Need a speaker for your next event? JMI's team and network of scholars are available to headline or participate in your organization's next gathering. JMI staff will help you match the topic with the appropriate speaker. To learn more contact Leanna at 850-386-3131 or Leanna@jamesmadison.org

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www.JamesMadison.org

The Madison Policy Digest is a free, weekly e-newsletter that summarizes Florida's top public policy headlines from around the state, complete with topical research and comment by The James Madison Institute. Suggestions and feedback are welcome at Thomas@JamesMadison.org.