

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N·E·W·S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For more information contact Amy Rezzonico, Press Secretary (602) 542-5072

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, September 3, 2009

HORNE CRITICAL OF WORSHIPFUL TONE EXPECTED OF SCHOOL CHILDREN LISTENING TO OBAMA'S SPEECH

PHOENIX (Thursday, September 3, 2009) -- State School Superintendent Tom Horne has raised questions about a White House effort to have students in schools watch a speech on the web, and react to it according to a curriculum provided by the White House. A copy of the White House communication is attached to this press release.

Horne stated: "An important part of educating students is to teach them to read and listen critically. The White House materials call for a worshipful, rather than critical approach to this speech. For example, the White House communication calls for the students to have "notable quotes excerpted (and posted in large print on the board)," and for the students to discuss "How will he inspire us," among other things. There is nothing in these White House materials about approaching the speech critically, or engaging in any critical thinking whatsoever, but only adopting a reverent approach to everything they are being told."

Horne added: "In general, in keeping with good education practice, students should be taught to read and think critically about statements coming from politicians and historical figures."

[Obama Speech Pre K-6 Guidelines](#)
[Obama Speech 7-12 Guidelines](#)

Follow us on:



###