

Sen. Kohl Thanks School Leaders

Wisconsin U.S. Senator Herb Kohl, serving his last year in the U.S. Senate, spoke before one of the largest general sessions ever at a State Education Convention. In his address, he adamantly praised the state's school board members, administrators, and educators for their hard work.

"You are outstanding people," Kohl said. "You've done a great job and you deserve our commendation and support. You have my everlasting gratitude for what you do and for how much you care about our young people."

Kohl spoke about the impact that education has had in his own life.

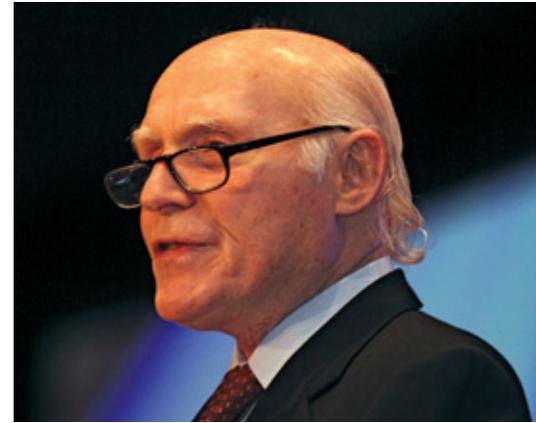
"My parents always stressed the importance of a good education," he said. "They instilled in me a belief

that education opens the doors to the future and they encouraged me to work hard in school, go to college, and to never stop learning ... I know I would not be where I am today if it were not for the support and guidance of my parents and my teachers."

As U.S. Senator, Kohl said he has faced pressure to reduce federal spending levels but he said the one area that he felt the country must continue to invest in is education.

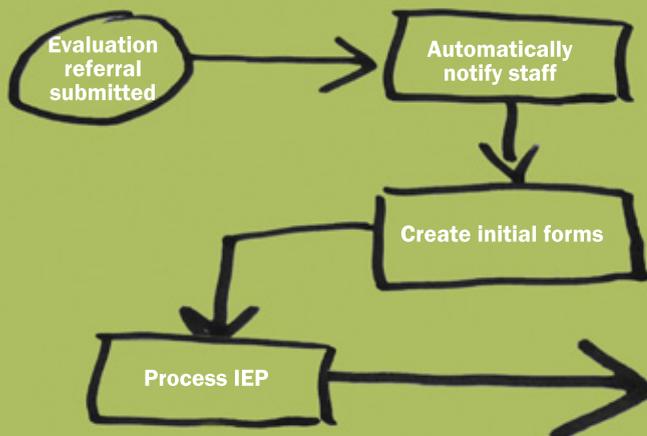
"We all know that if we do not make the critical investments in our children, then we are only setting ourselves, our economy and our country up for failure in the future," Kohl said.

In his nearly 24 years in the U.S. Senate, Kohl has supported programs like Head Start to help prepare students from all walks of



life to be successful in school. In addition to establishing the Herb Kohl Education Foundation, which recognizes outstanding teachers and students, Sen. Kohl has also supported initiatives like federal TRIO programs and Pell Grants to help students go to college. ■

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