

Education Reform Act

1988

The background features several light gray, wavy, horizontal lines that sweep across the lower right portion of the slide, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Background

- Conservative government (Margaret Thatcher)
- Often known as the “Baker” Act
- There was concern about standards of education
- There were also economic concerns
 - that education was not meeting the needs of the economy
- Based on “free market” principles – competition between schools and consumer choice
- Start of a series of rapid changes

The Act

Introduced:

- National Curriculum
 - Specified the subjects to be covered
 - Core subjects – compulsory to 16
 - Foundation subjects – compulsory to 14
 - Set out subject content
- National Testing (SATs)
 - 7,11,14
- League Tables

- Parental Choice & Open Enrolment
 - Competition between schools
- Local Management of Schools (LMS)
 - Schools given greater control of budgets
 - Greater responsiveness
 - Reduction of LEA power
 - Ability to “opt out”

- Formula funding
 - Schools receive funding per student
- OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education)
 - Inspections
 - State schools
 - 1997- LEAs
 - 2000 – Further education
 - 2001 – Childcare & pre school

- **Post-16 Competition – 1993**
 - FE colleges became independent of LEAs
 - Polytechnics – were given the option to become universities