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Thursday, August 23, 2001

NEW YORK TIMES (free registration required) "It's Not the Computer; It's How (and Where) You Use It" Nearly all of the public schools in the United States are now hooked up to the Internet, but the location of computers in the school and how often students have access to them may make all the difference.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

"Schools Side with Junk-food Vendors" Legislation that would have banned the sale of soda and high-fat or sugary snack foods in California schools was substantially weakened this week under heavy lobbying by the Association of California School Administrators and the California School Food Service Association, whose members argue the bill would bankrupt many cafeterias and school programs that rely on the sale of such items for fundraising.

NEW YORK TIMES (free registration required) "Schools Found Uneven in Promotion of Students" Two years after the New York City Board of Education adopted a policy intended to do away with the automatic promotion of failing students, the rules are being applied inconsistently across the city and in some districts seem hardly to be in effect at all. "Vilsack Promises Money for Schools" Gov. Tom Vilsack pledged Wednesday to find more money to improve Iowa schools, despite state budget troubles. Vilsack said he would seek more money for a landmark teacher-pay plan adopted last spring to raise salaries, which lag nationally. He said he didn't know yet where that money would come from.

WASHINGTON POST

"Settlement Gives Homeless Better Access to Schools" The settlement allows the county's 1,200 homeless children to remain at the school they are enrolled in when they move to temporary housing -- or to be immediately accepted at a school nearby. If the parent or guardian decides the child should remain at their original school, the county is required to provide transportation as far as 35 miles away within three days of the request.