

# The NEGP WEEKLY

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A Weekly News Update on America's Education Goals and school improvement efforts across America from the National Education Goals Panel

## CONTENTS:

STATE POLICY NEWS.....Page 1

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL NEWS.....Page 2

FEDERAL POLICY NEWS.....Page 3

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PRACTICE...Page 4

FEATURE STORY.....Page 5

## STATE POLICY NEWS

### First-Year Teacher Incentives: Colorado's Plan (Goal Four: Teacher Education and Professional Development)

Colorado Governor Bill Owens recently launched a new program that will give first-year teachers in the state up to \$8,000 in college loans forgiveness if they take jobs in areas where there are critical teacher shortages (Bingham, DENVER POST, 8/24). The subject areas targeted are: math, science, special education and linguistically diverse education (bilingual education, English as a second language).

To qualify, teachers must be graduates of teacher education programs that have been approved by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

For more information, visit the state of Colorado at [http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/governor\\_office.html](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/governor_office.html). Then, select Press Office and search for first-year teacher loan forgiveness.

### Combating Truancy: Arizona Schools (Goal Two: School Completion)

A "confusing mix of policies" at local schools, even schools in the same district, has left "educators, courts and police frustrated" with trying to curtail Arizona's truancy rate (Kossan, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC, 8/17). One problem that plagues all schools is the amount of time it takes to place a student in a truancy program. It takes too long to get into these programs,

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## *What is the National Education Goals Panel?*

The National Education Goals Panel is a unique bipartisan body of state and federal officials created in 1990 by President Bush and the nation's Governors to report state and national progress and urge education improvement efforts to reach a set of National Education Goals.

### *Who serves on the National Education Goals Panel and how are they chosen?*

Eight governors, four state legislators, four members of the U.S. Congress, and two members appointed by the President serve on the Goals Panel. Members are appointed by the leadership of the National Governors' Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the U.S. Senate and House, and the President.

### *What does the Panel do?*

The Goals Panel has been charged to:

- Report state and national progress toward the National Education Goals.
- Work to establish a system of high academic standards and assessments.
- Identify promising and effective reform strategies.
- Recommend actions for state, federal and local governments to take.
- Build a nationwide, bipartisan consensus to achieve the Goals.

The annual Goals Report and other publications of the Panel are available without charge upon request from the Goals Panel or at its web site [www.negp.gov](http://www.negp.gov). Publications requests can be made by mail, fax, e-mail, or on-line.

explained Phoenix police Officer Eddie Thompson, "So they have a month or more to continue missing school."

According to the paper, more than 4,200 students ended up in Maricopa County Juvenile Court in 2000 for truancy violations, which is triple the number reported in 1995.

Helen Carter, a Maricopa County juvenile-probation officer, also noted that truants are getting younger.

One challenge is changing laws that govern truancy. The paper reports that before 1999, students with 10 or more "unexcused absences" were considered to be "habitually truant;" since then the number of days changed to five. There also is no state standard for "excused" and unexcused" absences.

For more information on truancy, visit Maricopa County's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org>. Search for truancy.

## COMMUNITY AND LOCAL NEWS

### **Making The Grade: Report Cards That Work** (Goal Eight: Parent Involvement)

Parents throughout Illinois are clamoring for a return to letter grades on their child's report card, according to the CHICAGO TRIBUNE (Black, 8/27). From the paper: "Letter grades may be old-fashioned, they say, but at least the meaning is clear."

"There's too much jargon," said Carolyn Laughlin, a parent and private tutor. "If we want parents to open the report cards and have good clear discussions with their kids and their teachers, we have to play it straight." Laughlin was the parent representative on a committee that studied report cards for the Evanston/Skokie district.

While Laughlin favors the new standards-based reports that will go home with every child beginning this year, she argues that a letter grade should "summarize results beginning in the fourth grade, instead of the sixth grade as decided" in the committee. Her opinion "put her at odds" with the teachers who also served on the committee and who oppose letter grades.

## The National Education Goals Panel

### GOVERNORS

Frank O' Bannon  
Indiana, Chair, 2000

Jim Geringer  
Wyoming, Chair-elect, 2001

John Engler  
Michigan

Jim Hodges  
South Carolina

Frank Keating  
Oklahoma

Paul E. Patton  
Kentucky

Jeanne Shaheen  
New Hampshire

Tom Vilsack  
Iowa

### MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Vacant

Vacant

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U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman  
New Mexico

U.S. Senator Jim Jeffords  
Vermont

U.S. Representative George Miller  
California

Vacant

### STATE LEGISLATORS

Representative G. Spencer Coggs  
Wisconsin

Representative Mary Lou  
Cowlshaw  
Illinois

Representative Douglas R. Jones  
Idaho

Senator Stephen Stoll  
Missouri

### **Romer To Principals: More Classroom Visits** (Goal Four: Teacher Education and Professional Development)

In his back-to-school address, Los Angeles Unified Superintendent Roy Romer called on school principals and administrators to make more classroom visits to observe instruction (Ritsch, L.A. TIMES, 8/24). "We need to draw a direct line from each of our jobs to improving instruction," said Romer. Teachers are not the only ones who have an impact on student learning, added Romer, who noted the impact administrators have on students.

According to the paper, principals in attendance concurred with Romer's directive to visit classrooms, but added that it "competes with other duties on their ever-growing to-do lists," writes the paper. "Sometimes the day-to-day operational issues interfere with the principal's obligation to lead instruction on the campus," said Principal James Noble of Washington Preparatory High School.

For more information, visit the Los Angeles Unified public schools at <http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us>.

## FEDERAL POLICY NEWS

### **Disadvantaged and Minority Students: Doed Grant To Improve College Programs**

(Goal Six: Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning)

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced that 102 colleges and universities that serve a significant number of disadvantaged or minority students will receive grants from the U.S. Department of Education. The awards will provide \$27.2 million to improve academic programs, including engineering and science studies, facilities, fiscal management and planning and student services.

The Strengthening Institutions Program helps eligible schools increase their self-sufficiency by attracting and retaining students through better programs and facilities.

For more information and a list of grantees, visit the Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/>

## THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS



Goal 1: Ready to Learn



Goal 2: School Completion



Goal 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship



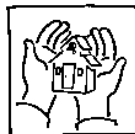
Goal 4: Teacher Education and Professional Development



Goal 5: Mathematics and Science



Goal 6: Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning



Goal 7: Safe, Disciplined and Alcohol- and Drug-free Schools



Goal 8: Parental Participation

PressReleases/08-2001/08132001.html.

### Improving America's Schools: Conferences (All Goals)

In a "Message from the Secretary," U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced upcoming Improving America's Schools conferences, "an important part of the ongoing partnership between the U.S. Department of Education and the nation's educators, families and communities."

Paige underscored President Bush's commitment to education, particularly in the area of reading, "one of the critical components of the President's [education] plan. . ."

The conferences are scheduled for: Mobile, Alabama on October 17-19; Reno, Nevada, November 13-15; and San Antonio, Texas, December 17-19.

For more information, visit the Department of Education at <http://www.ncbe.gwu.edu/iasconferences>.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

#### Keeping Parents Posted: High-Tech Solution (Goal Eight: Parent Involvement)

David Dickerson, a teacher in western Missouri, has developed a "groundbreaking" system for providing parents with a daily update on their child's performance in school (Pierce, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, 5/29). Teachers use a computer form to tell parents how their child did in the classroom that day. The teacher then uses a voice recorder hooked up to the computer to record the daily assignment. Parents can call a telephone number, punch in a code for their student and retrieve the computer information, which has been converted to audio, as well as the daily assignment, reports the paper.

"It's become a salvation for me as a working mom." said Carla Fuller. "It made a direct connection between me and the school."

The system is working in Fair Play School District, a small

district with only 380 students. However, St. Louis school leaders are deciding whether to try out the system in order to improve parent involvement. “The main thing is that line between the school and the home was opened up,” said George Cotton, who manages the parent academy for the St. Louis Public Schools. “It doesn’t put a tremendous burden on the teacher either.”

### **Business and Community Colleges: A Growing Enterprise** (Goal Six: Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning)

A National Alliance of Business newsletter highlights the growing number of partnerships between community colleges and the business sector dedicated to improving lifelong learning opportunities for American workers (BUSINESS COALITION NETWORK, June 2001). “Community colleges are actively engaging communities in lifelong learning, and they are doing so in response to the need of, and with support from, the business community,” notes the newsletter.

According to the newsletter, community colleges are an “excellent resource” for the private sector to tap to “train and upgrade the skills of workers quickly.” Reasons given include: community colleges are “agile” in curriculum development and capable of quickly adapting an existing program or creating a new one; and, they can do this at much less cost than it takes for a business to do the same thing in-house.

For more information on the National Alliance of Business, visit <http://www.nab.com>.

## FEATURE STORY

### **Success In School = Success In Life: An Ad Campaign** (Goal Three: Student Achievement and Goal Eight: Parent Involvement)

The NAACP, People for the American Way Foundation, Eastman Kodak Company and The Advertising Council have joined forces to help spur more parent involvement in the education of their children. Backed by recent studies revealing that parental involvement has a major impact on the success of their child’s education, the groups have launched a nationwide grassroots and media campaign aimed at increasing parent involvement. The ad campaign is expected to reach 25,000 media outlets nationwide.

The campaign’s theme is “Success in School Equals Success In Life.” According to the NAACP, the theme “underscores the latest research, which consistently shows that parents are one of the single most important factors in their children’s educational success.”

“This campaign is not to condemn, but to remind parents that you really can find a way to be involved in your child’s life,” said NACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume. “We want to empower even more parents by showing the importance of parental involvement at all levels of their child’s education,” he added.

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“The education of our children is of paramount concern to the American people and our research consistently indicates that the best way to improve a child’s education is through greater parental involvement,” stated Peggy Conlon, president and CEO of The Advertising Council. “With this campaign, the Ad Council welcomes the opportunity to encourage African American and Hispanic parents to become more involved and maximize their child’s education.”

Released in time for back-to-school, the Partners for Public Education campaign was created by volunteer ad agency UniWorld Group, Inc, and generously underwritten by Eastman Kodak Company.

In the television public service ad entitled “Cheers,” the viewer sees what appears to be the last seconds of a junior high school basketball game. The crowd is cheering, the clock is ticking, two parents jump out of their seats and the camera closes in on who the audience believes is a player about to take a shot. Then the camera pans out and we see that he is really doing a math problem and that the crowd and his parents are cheering for him to finish it correctly, sending the message that parents should cheer for academic success as loudly as they would for athletic success.

In another television ad called “Mother Tongue,” a student is seen translating for his Spanish-speaking mother and English-speaking teacher. When the mother asks how she can help her son with his homework, the teacher answers that by coming down to the school she is already helping.

For more information on the ad campaign, visit <http://www.schoolsuccessinfo.org>

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