

The NEGP WEEKLY

October 26, 2001

Volume 2 — No. 123



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

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STATE POLICY NEWS

Career Education: Getting A New Look In South Carolina

(Goal Six: Adult Education and Lifelong Literacy)

South Carolina's efforts to upgrade its skilled workforce has not "kept pace with the demands of the American economy," according to a report released by Governor Jim Hodges workforce education task force (Richard, EDUCATION WEEK, 10/24). According to the report, while two-thirds of jobs in South Carolina require technical skills, only one-third of students seek degrees in the state's two-year technical colleges. More students seek white-collar jobs.

The report recommends South Carolina officials to enforce a 1994 state law that requires schools to link academic courses with skills needed in the workplace.

For more information, visit South Carolina's Department of Education at <http://www.sde.state.sc.us/news/more.cfm?articleID=111>.

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL NEWS

Virginia School Districts: More Meeting State Standards

(Goal Three: Student Achievement and Citizenship)

Virginia reports a dramatic increase in the number of

The NEGP WEEKLY is a publication of:
The National Education Goals Panel
1255 22nd Street NW,
Suite 502
Washington, DC 20037;
202-724-0015

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. Publications requests can be made by mail, fax, e-mail, or on-line.

schools meeting state standards (Richard, EDUCATION WEEK, 10/24). In 1999, only 2 percent of public schools met state accreditation standards. This year, 40 percent of the state's public schools met the standard, while another 30 percent have attained the state's year-by-year benchmarks for adequate progress. Schools are required to meet the standards by 2007.

For more information on the Virginia Standards of Learning, visit the Virginia Department of Education at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/sol.html>.

FEDERAL POLICY NEWS

Early Childhood Teachers: Professional Development Grants

(Goal One: Ready To Learn)

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige recently announced the release of new grants totaling \$9.6 million to help states and districts improve training and professional development for early childhood educators and caregivers in eight states. The states are Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma and Texas.

Educators who work in early childhood programs located in high-poverty urban or rural communities and serve children from low-income families are those slated for targeted training to improve children's early reading and language skills - with a goal of preventing reading difficulties when they enter and progress through school.

For more information, visit the Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/10-2001/10052001a.html>.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students: Joint Effort From Education, Justice and HHS

(Goal Seven: Safe Schools)

The U.S. Departments of Education, Justice and Health and Human Services (HHS) announced more than \$38

The National Education Goals Panel

CHAIR 2001

Governor Frank O' Bannon of Indiana

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Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma

Governor Paul E. Patton of Kentucky

Governor Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire

Governor Tom Vilsack of Iowa

U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico

U.S. Senator Jim Jeffords of Vermont

U.S. Representative George Miller of California

State Representative G. Spencer Coggs of Wisconsin

State Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw of Illinois

State Representative Douglas R. Jones of Idaho

State Senator Stephen Stoll of Missouri

million in grants to 20 communities to make schools safer, foster children's development and prevent aggressive and violent behavior and drug and alcohol use among the nation's youth.

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students program supports urban, rural, suburban and tribal school district efforts to link prevention activities and community-based services, with the goal of strengthening local approaches to violence prevention and child development.

The joint effort of the three departments is intended to help communities design and put in place comprehensive educational, mental health, social service, law enforcement and juvenile justice services for youth. The grants will fund 20 new three-year projects.

For more information, visit the Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/10-2001/10042001e.html>.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

Urban Partnership For Literacy: Reaching Children

(Goal Three: Student Achievement and Citizenship)

The International Reading Association and the National Urban Alliance recently formed the Urban Partnership for Literacy to help raise awareness of urban issues and to raise the achievement levels of poor children and youth.

Partners will work together through a voluntary affiliation of teachers, scholars and other practitioners in the field of literacy for the improvement of instruction through professional development, dissemination of exemplary classroom practices and advocacy of reforms to eliminate the national achievement gap among students.

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS



Goal 1: Ready to Learn



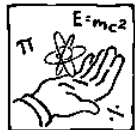
Goal 2: School Completion



Goal 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship



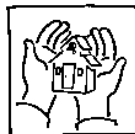
Goal 4: Teacher Education and Professional Development



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

For more information, visit the International Reading Association at <http://www.reading.org/media/press/press010926.html>.

Poetry 180: America's Poet Laureate's Poem-A-Day Program

(Goal Three: Student Achievement and Citizenship)

Billy Collins, recently appointed to the post of poet laureate, is trying to spread a love of poetry to the nation's schoolchildren. Poetry 180 is Collins' attempt to have every child read or hear one poem for every day spent in school.

The Library of Congress will post poems selected by Collins on its website. "The library hopes to inspire kids to develop a love of language," said Jill Brett, spokeswoman for the Library of Congress, where Collins is in residence during his eight-month appointment. The program is expected to be launched by January.

For more information, visit the Library of Congress at http://www.governmentguide.com/govsite.adp?bread=*Main*search/learn&query=poetry/2007/2007congress&http://3A/www.lcweb.loc.gov/global/executive/fed.html&CID=default and search for Billy Collins.

FEATURE STORY

Six Nation Study: How Schools Work (All Goals)

Researchers from China, Germany, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States met at the University of Pennsylvania earlier this month to discuss their seven-year project that examines links between education and the economy.

The Six-Nation Education Research Project began in 1993 to "address the challenges facing educational systems around the world," according to the University of Pennsylvania's School of education. The initiative conducts comparative research in education, focusing on

topics of mutual interest to the countries involved.

Each country was asked to lead one study, the topics of which were jointly decided among researchers and policymakers who participated in the project. For example, the Swiss delegation decided to study vocational education, the Singapore representatives studied English-language instruction and the U.S. team focused on “isolating factors that seemed to be linked to achievement differences between countries” in math and science (Viadero, EDUCATION WEEK, 10/24).

For more information, visit the Penn Graduate School of Education at <http://www.gse.upenn.edu/intl/2001conf.html>.

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Washington, DC 20037;
202-724-0015

NEGP Acting Executive Director: John Barth
Publisher: John Barth
Editor: Barbara A. Pape
www.negp.gov

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