



## NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BEING THREATENED OR INJURED AT SCHOOL DECLINING**

*Number Of Tenth Graders Threatened Or Injured At School On Decline*

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – High school students nationwide feel safer than they did at the beginning of the 1990's, according to the National Education Goals Panel. Between 1991 and 1998, the number of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students reporting being threatened or injured at school in the previous year declined from 40 percent to 33 percent.

“We’ve seen some positive movement in terms of increased student safety,” says Gov. Frank O’Bannon (D-IN), newly elected chair of the National Education Goals Panel. “But we’ve still got a ways to go, as recent violent incidents in some of our schools indicate. It is time to put our collective heads together to address violence in our schools.”

Acting Director of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence, Joanne McDaniel, echoes the concerns of the Goals Panel. “Students currently surveyed have a better grasp of the victimization issue, especially after Columbine,” says McDaniel. “But thirty three percent is a large number of students saying they have been threatened or injured. A lot of work is left to do if over one third of our students feel victimized at school.”

John T. Benson, Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction, credits the state’s high performance in Goal seven, Safe Schools, to community partnerships and supportive school environments. “We can punish all the bullies, find all the guns and knives with metal detectors, and keep the outside world away from our school buildings by locking every door,” says Benson. “But, we won’t change the attitudes of young people until we reach their heart.”

The bipartisan National Education Goals Panel reports on student victimization as an indicator of the seventh National Education Goal: Safe, Disciplined, and Alcohol-and-Drug-Free-Schools. Student victimization figures were prepared specifically for the Goals Panel in a report titled *Selected Outcome Measures from the Monitoring the Future Study for Goal Seven of the National Education Goals*.

#### *About the National Education Goals Panel*

Created in July 1990, the National Education Goals Panel is a bipartisan body consisting of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats from the federal and state levels of government. The Panel is made up of eight governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators and two members appointed by the President. The eight National Education Goals call for greater levels of: student achievement; high school completion; teacher education and professional development; parental participation in the schools; adult literacy and lifelong learning; and safe, disciplined, and alcohol-and-drug-free schools. The Goals also call for all children to be ready to learn by the time they start school and for U.S. students to be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement.

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