



NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2000

Contact: Brian Turmail
202/842-3600 or bturmail@hagersharp.com

Parents are Going Back to School

High Percentage of Parents Getting Involved in School Activities

(Washington, D.C.) – Almost two-thirds of the nation’s parents continue to get involved in school activities. These activities include attending general school meetings or events, serving on a committee or volunteering. That is according to information released by the National Education Goals Panel. In 1999, 62% of parents reported that they participated in two or more activities in their child’s school during the current school year. This figure reflects no statistically significant change from the 63% of parents who reported their involvement in school activities in 1993.

“A successful partnership between parents and teachers ultimately benefits the child,” says Governor Tommy Thompson (R-WI), chair of the Goals Panel. “Parents who are involved in school activities become advocates for continued improvements in our educational system.”

Many organizations have made parental involvement in school activities their central mission. The National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (NCPIE), for instance, advocates the involvement of parents and families in their children’s education. NCPIE agrees that family involvement encourages student achievement or other positive attitudes and behaviors that increase success in schools.

“We are on a mission to make family-school partnerships an ongoing, practical reality,” says Sue Ferguson, NCPIE chairperson. “We’re working to promote family school partnership in every school in America. When parents are involved in their children’s education, children do better in school and the school improves as well.”

The National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University provides help to improve school, family and community partnerships. Dr. Joyce Epstein, the Network’s Director explains, “Schools, districts, and state departments of education are invited to join to obtain assistance in planning, implementing, and evaluating research-based programs to involve families at school and at home in ways to promote student success.”

Other school districts have taken parental participation a step further by using technology, especially websites. In the October issue of *The Journal*, the article “Website Keep Teachers, Parents and Students on Track” examines how websites have become a tool to enhance relationships between parents and schools in order to increase the learning experience of students. In addition, policymakers who have become aware of the crucial role of parents in education have stipulated programs to involve all parents and families.

About the National Education Goals Panel

Created in July 1990, the National Education Goals Panel is a bipartisan body of federal and state officials comprised 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 and citizenship; increased rates of high school graduation; higher levels of adult literacy; 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 by the year 2000.

###