

CAPE Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

January 1993 Number 187

Council Members: American Montessori Society • Association of American Military Colleges and Schools of the U.S. • Christian Schools International • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Friends Council on Education • Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Association of Private Schools for Exceptional Children • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education, K-12 • Solomon Schechter Day School Association • U.S. Catholic Conference • **Affiliated state organizations in:** Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

New Administration Prepares to Lead

With a newly named Secretary of Education, recommendations from transition team study "clusters", and a campaign outline of a "Plan" for reform, President-Elect Bill Clinton is poised to be an aggressive advocate for education. And private school educators are ready to join in the effort.

The Clinton/Gore Plan

In the closing days of the November election, the Clinton-Gore campaign distributed an outline of their plan for education. The features of the plan center on child learning readiness, school reform, tough standards, safe schools, and opportunity. With the five-prong approach, the campaign claimed that Clinton would "give Congress and the American people a real education reform package" in the first 100 days of the administration.

Although vague on specifics, the document explained the approach to the establishment of tough academic standards. They include working with educators, parents, business leaders and public officials to define high "national standards for what students should know." It further specifies that a "National Examination System" should be established to measure student and school progress in meeting those standards.

In the "reform" section of the document, the campaign noted six areas for improvement and change. Specifically,

the plan called for increasing Chapter 1 funding and allowing schools greater flexibility to spend that money more effectively, particularly in "reducing class sizes in early grades." It also calls for assistance to states to develop public school choice programs like that in Arkansas, with protections against student population imbalances based on race, religion, and income. And finally, it calls for better bilingual education programs to more effectively improve English fluency while protecting and respecting a child's native language and culture.

'Empowerment', 'tough standards', and 'local decision-making' are consistent and proper priorities for the education community and ... they describe the ingredients for most effective private schools.

*Joyce G. McCray,
CAPE executive director*

The document goes on to call for giving greater decision-making powers to principals and empowering teachers and parents. It also declares that better incentives to hire and keep good teachers is important, along with alternative certification and a differential pay scale to attract critically needed teachers in certain areas or who have special skills.

Of these priorities, Joyce G. McCray, CAPE executive director, said "Clearly, Mr. Clinton's background as a 'reform governor'

and one intimately involved in writing the six national education goals, gave indication that these would be his administration's priority." The six goals were established by the Bush Administration and the nation's governors after an education summit in 1989. McCray went on to state that, "'Empowerment', 'tough standards', and 'local decision-making' are consistent and proper priorities for the education community and the nation. Further, they describe the ingredients for most effective private schools."

Secretary-Designate Riley

To help carry out these priorities, Clinton named a former, fellow education reform governor from the South. Richard W. Riley was presented as Clinton's Secretary of Education on December 21, taking him from his role as the head of the transition team's personnel operation.

Riley served as governor of South Carolina from 1979 to 1987 and is hailed as one of the most successful governors to oversee education reform efforts. He overcame his state legislature's reluctance to improve and finance education reforms by building support among the state's business community. His 1983 legislative effort included constructing a package of 62 education programs, paid for by a 1-cent statewide sales tax increase.



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Other aspects of that reform bill included higher graduation requirements by raising credits needed in math and science and making kindergarten mandatory. The measure further created an adjustment for teacher salaries to a regional average and established a reward system for outstanding teachers and administrators.

The South Carolina governor's drive to pass the education bill and tax increase were remarkably similar to the efforts of the man he will replace at the Department of Education. Current Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander, governor of Tennessee during the same eight-year period, signed into law a landmark education reform package the same year.

Riley worked closely with Clinton on education initiatives while in the National Governors' Association and is a close friend and trusted advisor to the Arkansas governor. The Clinton and Riley families have spent the last eight New Year's holidays together in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The weeklong retreat, known as "Renaissance Weekend", was described by *The New York Times* as a "high-powered intellectual house party of more than a thousand leaders from various disciplines."

Clusters Study

Riley will have broad, yet to be disclosed, recommendations from a unique set of transition staff. After selecting a domestic policy assistant director to the transition board, Clinton named the president of Spelman College to head a "cluster" group to study and recommend structural changes to federal agencies dealing with education, labor and humanities.

The task force, lead by Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, is charged with making summaries about various agency programs and functions. It further has been asked for recommendations to the transition board about how to execute the goals of the incoming Administration.

A second set of transition officials will make policy recommendations to the Administration. This will be particularly important in the area of elementary and secondary education as the act authorizing those federal programs expires this year. The House Education and Labor Committee has already sought input from various education groups to prepare its draft changes to the

"Elementary and Secondary Education Act." (See Legislative Update.) Clinton is expected to forward his plans early in the year.

McCray has written to several transition officials providing them with information about CAPE and offering assistance and support. She concluded by saying that "CAPE stands ready to work with the new Administration and expects to maintain a positive relationship."

CAPE on Carnegie "Choice" Report

CAPE took exception with some findings of the recent Carnegie Foundation study entitled "School Choice," while expressing agreement with other points. Among its findings, the report noted a majority of public school parents do not favor sending their children to another public or private school and that existing choice programs have seen a small percentage of parent participation.

Joyce G. McCray, CAPE executive director, expressed support for the statement by the study's author who said, "choice must be viewed as an enrichment strategy, not a replacement strategy." McCray noted that "We in the private school community have never held 'choice' to be a panacea, but rather a right of parents concerned for their children's education." CAPE has viewed educational choice as a motivator for change and improvement as well as a fundamental parental right.

However, McCray also expressed concern at the focus on the figure which shows that 70% of parents are content with their children's current public school. "I am surprised that choice opponents seem to latch on to this statistic as a rationale for their opposition -- since it means that 30% of parents are NOT satisfied with their schools. Their survey shows a higher percentage of public school parents who would prefer a private school than the total of all parents who currently are able to choose private schools." The Carnegie survey showed 19% of public school parents responded that they would like to send their child to a private school. This 19% is in addition to the current 12% of children enrolled in private schools nationally.

On another highly touted figure, which notes that less than 2% of parents participate

in choice programs, McCray said, "By their own admission, the Carnegie Foundation notes that these new programs may need more time to be adequately tested for their effects." She further expressed that this partly dispels the charge by choice opponents that such programs would wreck havoc on the public school system.

McCray noted that a recently commissioned poll by the Gallup organization on the school choice issue showed growing public support for the concept. "That respected yardstick of opinion -- with a consistent, direct question -- has demonstrated increasing public approval for a government supported 'voucher system'." Gallup polls have shown increasing support from 38% in 1971 to 46% in 1986 to 50% in 1991. The Gallup organization released a survey in October showing 70% of Americans now support this idea.

Former Secretary of Education William Bennett told a Colorado audience that "They (the Carnegie Foundation) are veterans of the school system working hand in glove with the school system. This is like asking the Catholic church to evaluate Notre Dame football. They're probably going to come out in favor of it."

Legislative Update:

"Write Your Member of Congress"

To welcome the 122 newly elected members of Congress, CAPE wrote each freshman congratulating them on their elections and providing them with information about CAPE and private schools.

Joyce G. McCray, CAPE executive director wrote, "Education reform and improvement will be a major issue in the new Congress. We believe private schools should be involved in that important debate, particularly as the 'Elementary and Secondary Education Act' will be reauthorized in 1993."

McCray also urges CAPE affiliated schools to write their Senators and Member of Congress to urge their consideration of private school views during the upcoming education reform



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legislation discussions.

Should any school officials need information on who now represents you in Congress, please call on the CAPE office at (202) 659-0016.

ESEA Input

CAPE recently provided written input to the House Education and Labor Committee in preparation for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act this year. The committee leadership had invited written, informal recommendations late this summer.

The CAPE letter stated, "The cornerstone of the ESEA of 1965 is the Chapter 1 program for children of low-income, disadvantaged families. From the beginning of the program, all children, without regard to school setting, were meant to receive important services from this program. Despite years of legislative adjustments and controversial court decisions, the basic 'child benefit theory' has been practiced in this and most education programs executed by the

federal government. This theory holds that all eligible children should be afforded such services whether enrolled in a public, private or religiously-affiliated school."

The letter concluded by asking that "any new aspect of the reauthorization legislation implement and encourage the full and fair representation of private schools."

House Education Committee

No changes were made in the leadership ranks of the important House Education and Labor Committee. But several new Members were named to the panel after the organizational meetings of each caucus last month.

New Democratic Members include: Engel (NY), Berra (CA), Scott (VA), Green (TX), Woolsey (CA), Romero-Barcelo (PR), Klink (PA), English (AZ), and Strickland (OH).

New Republican Members include: Hoekstra (MI), McKeon (CA), and Miller (FL).

IS Identifies 5 Issues

Independent Sector (IS), a coalition of 850 charitable, educational, philanthropic nonprofit organizations, has identified five major issues to the incoming Clinton Administration for their 1993 agenda.

In a letter to the President-Elect, IS President Brian O'Connell outlined specific, legislative issues for the attention of the new Administration and Congress. Among them were the repeal of the 3% floor on itemized deductions for charitable contributions, restoration of the full deductibility of gifts of appreciated property, and protection of the preferred postal rates for non-profit organizations.

CAPE, as a member of Independent Sector, has worked on behalf of private schools on these issues and will continue to do so in the future.

CAPE Legislative Conference

Registration for the 3rd Annual CAPE Legislative Conference is still open to any interested educator from a CAPE-affiliated

cape Legislative Conference 1993 Registration Form

Name: _____
 Home Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ FAX: _____
 Birthdate*: _____ Soc. Sec. #*: _____

* Required for White House security (bring photo ID to conference)

School: _____
 CAPE Member Organization (e.g. NCEA, NAIS): _____
 Who is your Member of Congress?: _____
 Do you have a personal contact with any of your Congressional delegation?: _____

_____ Yes, I will attend the CAPE 3rd Annual Legislative Conference March 16-17, 1993

_____ I will not require accommodations during my stay.

_____ I have enclosed my registration fee of \$140.

For more information on the Conference, please call the CAPE office at (202) 659-0016 during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For accommodations, contact the Embassy Row Hotel toll-free at (800) 424-2400, \$115 per night, single/double occupancy. Identify "CAPE" for group rate no later than February 15, 1993.

Please return this form to CAPE as soon as possible but NO LATER than February 1, 1993

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school. The meeting will be held March 16-17, 1993. To sign up, please see the registration form on page 3.

CapeNotes:



► **The Follow Through Program**, within the U.S. office of Elementary and Secondary Education, provides comprehensive services to children from low-income families who are in kindergarten and primary grades and who have had Head Start or similar quality preschool experience.

There are currently 15 different Follow Through models which have been used to extend or enhance the academic, social, family involvement, and health gain made by children during their formal preschool experiences. In the past, several Follow Through programs have been disseminated by the National Diffusion Network (NDN).

For more information about these NDN programs, contact the Private School Facilitator project director Dr. Charles Nunley at the CAPE office, or by calling (202) 659-0177.

► **The 1993 NDN Broadcast Series** for February was announced for a training pro-

gram in "COPE/KinderScience". Part I will be broadcast on February 1 at 12 noon (Central time) for 45 minutes and Part II will be on February 17.

There will also be an "awareness" broadcast on February 24 on Keyboarding, Reading and Spelling. This session will give an overview to that program. It will also be aired at 12 noon Central time.

These and other NDN programs are from a body of over 400 educational programs validated by the Department of Education, following rigorous evaluation, as educationally effective, cost-efficient, and replicable.

All programs will be broadcast on Galaxy 6 (C-band 99 degrees West), Transponder 7 (Channel 7), Downlink Frequency 3840 MHz, Program Audio 6.2 & 6.8 MHz.

► **The Committee for Education Funding**, a coalition of major elementary, secondary, and higher education organizations recently released "Blueprint for a Better Tomorrow" A Plan for Federal Investment in Education". Prepared for the 103rd Congress and the incoming Clinton Administration, the document outlines the current federal role in education and encourages those responsible for shaping the future role to view education as an investment in this and future generations.

The 122-page book includes chapters on the federal investment in Elementary and Secondary Education; Coordination of Early Childhood Education, Nutrition, Health, and Social Services; The School-to-Work Transition and Lifelong Learning; Higher Education; and Education Research and Improvement.

Within the publication, CEF also sets forth its agenda for change, pointing out the dire need for increased federal investment in education and challenging our nation's new leaders to ensure that our most academically and financially disadvantaged students have an equal opportunity to share in America's future.

CAPE is a member of CEF and participated in the writing of the book. Copies of "Blueprint for a Better Tomorrow: A Plan for Federal Investment in Education" are available at a cost of \$8 each. Contact CEF at 505 Capitol Court, NE, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20002 or call (202) 543-6300.

► Copies of the 1992 *Private Schools of the United States* directories are still available from CAPE at a cost of \$37 (\$29.95 plus \$7.05 postage and handling). Order the 1,239-page volume by mailing a check to CAPE, and a copy will be sent to you via UPS.

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a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12
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 [ISSN 0271-1451]

Outlook is published monthly (September to June) by the Council for American Private Education. Annual Subscription is \$10.

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