

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

November 1993 Number 195

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

National & Community Service Bill Becomes Law

During the campaign of 1992, Governor Bill Clinton campaigned extensively on the issue of national service, pledging to expand the concept into a domestic Peace Corps. President Clinton recently signed into law a bill intent on renewing "the ethic of civic responsibility and the spirit of community" by encouraging "citizens to engage in full or part time national service."

Early this year, legislation was initiated to amend the existing "National and Community Service Act of 1990." The new measure, H.R. 2010, was passed by the House and Senate in late summer and signed into law by the President on September 21.

The Mission and Structure

The preamble of the act states that "there are pressing unmet human, educational, environmental and public safety needs" in the United States. It also puts forth that Americans hold "common responsibilities and shared values, [to] join together in positive experiences" to address those needs which "transcend race, religion, gender, age, disability, region, income, and education."

A new "Corporation for National and Community Service" (CNCS) will be formed to replace the current Commission on National and Community Service as the primary governing structure for the new

service program. It will also absorb ACTION, the principal volunteer agency since 1971 which administers and coordinates volunteer service programs such as VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America).

The CNCS will consist of a 15-member Presidentially appointed Board of Directors and be organized as a non-profit corporation (able to receive private funds). The Senate recently confirmed the President's appointment of Eli J. Segal as the first chief executive officer of the Corporation. Other board appointments are expected soon.

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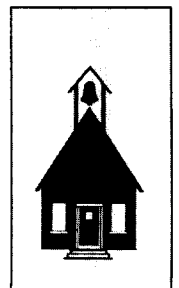
The act also calls on each state to organize a commission to accept funding and encourage service programs. Pending Corporation approval, a state commission must have 15 to 25 bi-partisan members who will be charged with prioritizing and disbursing

funds.

The measure is authorized for \$1.5 billion over the next three years, (\$300 million for FY '94; \$500 million for FY '95; and \$700 million for FY '96.) The funding would be proportioned with a third to states on the basis of population, a third to states on a competitive basis, and a third to the new Corporation for distribution to non-profits, tribes, federal agencies, colleges and other private organizations on a competitive basis.

The centerpiece of the act supports full- and part-time service, providing participants with a limited wage while serving and a post-service award of \$4,725 per year to be used for past and present educational expenses. Known as AMERICORPS, it is expected to involve 20,000 individuals in the first year and up to 100,000 by 1996. Participants must be 17 years and older.

There is also a significant provision in the legislation which will fund national/community service programs. The Serve-America program will fund a variety of activities including Community Youth, Conservation, and Urban Youth Corps; service programs targeted at unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs; as well as intergenerational programs of service.



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School-Based Service-Learning

A specific area of emphasis under the Serve-America provisions sets out opportunities for school-based service-learning programs. This section provides for the expressed "participation of students and teachers from private schools."

The section requires this "equitable participation" on the basis of the number of students "enrolled in private, non-profit elementary and secondary schools" in each state, as well as "for the training of the teachers of such students." However, the section has a protection in the event that a state fails to provide equal access for private or religious school students and teachers. In case a state fails to provide equity, or is barred doing so by state law, the Corporation may arrange for service funding opportunities to those students and teachers.

Those grant applications for funding of school-based service-learning will be prioritized by certain criteria. The specifications are that: participants design and operate the program; programs must be targeted to the greatest needs, and; there is the involvement of both public and private school students or students of different ages, races, economic backgrounds, and disabilities serving together. Further priority will be given for projects in which the service is integrated into the academic program.

The law also states those ineligible for grants. For instance, applicants must assure that a program "will not be used to perform service that provides a direct benefit" to any "organization engaged in religious activities." It further specifies that such programs cannot "give religious instruction, conduct worship services, provide instruction [including] mandatory religious education or worship" or "engage in any form of proselytization." It also states however that participants cannot be prevented "from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative."

A special briefing was arranged by the Office of Private Education at the Department prior to the bill's final passage in Congress. A national service liaison for the Department of Education described the bill and this prohibition, after questions from private school officials. He said however that the ensuing regulations to be promul-

gated by the Corporation will give greater definition to this issue.

Following the appointment of the other Corporation members by the President, it is expected they will develop and publish specific funding criteria in the *Federal Register* by late 1993 or early 1994. States will also begin to establish service commissions. Information on grants should be available in early 1994 with the first funding announcements by Spring or Summer 1994.

Further information at this point can be provided by the Commission on National and Community Service at (202) 724-0600.

CAPE Sponsors Smithsonian "Choice" Forum

With the continued debate on educational improvement, school choice remains a spirited topic in reform discussions. CAPE, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution, sponsored a forum on the issue entitled, "School Choice: What are the Choices?"

The session, a part of the Smithsonian's "Campus on the Mall" program was held October 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the Ripley Center Lecture Hall, next to the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall. The hour and a half meeting, moderated by CAPE executive director Joyce McCray included five panelists contributing to the dialogue. They were: Peter Relic, president, National Association of Independent Schools; Sister Catherine McNamee, president, National Catholic Educational Association; Joe Nathan, director, Center for School Change, University of Minnesota; Linda Davis, deputy superintendent, San Francisco United School District; and Joan Davis Ratteray, president, Institute for Independent Education Inc. Both Relic and McNamee are members and officers of the CAPE board of directors.

McCray said, "We were very pleased with the in-depth discussion held by the panel. I think everyone attending found the dialogue to be very informative and enlightening." She added, "Since the environment surrounding this issue has become so adversarial at times, this forum provided an opportunity for a calm discussion of school choice."

The program was a part of the "Smithsonian Forum on Education School Reform: Issues, Ideas, and Innovations," a series of eight sessions from October through December under the Resident Associate Program. Other topics include Multi-cultural Education, How Technology is Transforming the Classroom, and Educational Partnerships.

For more information on the Smithsonian Forum on Education School Reform, contact the Smithsonian's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at (202) 357-3030.

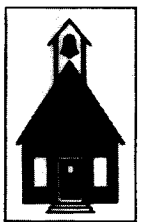
Secretary to Host Teacher Forum

The Office of the Secretary of the Department of Education is sponsoring a national conference of teachers in conjunction with American Education Week. The meeting will involve 115 teachers, representing every state as well as 14 national private school associations. The event will be held November 18-19 in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the forum is to "bring together a group of superb teachers so that the U.S. Department of Education can hear their thoughts on educational issues and policies." The focus, according to Secretary Richard Riley is to receive input from teachers on how the federal government can assist teachers in our achievement of the six national education goals.

"We recognize that teachers possess a wealth of knowledge and understanding about how teaching and learning occur," said Riley in a letter about the forum. "Therefore, through this forum, we hope to lay a foundation for helping teachers become partners in developing federal, state, and local reform strategies, and to lead changes in their schools, school districts and states that will enable our students to meet high academic and occupational achievement goals."

The meeting is being coordinated by Ms. Terry Dozier, special advisor to the Secretary on teaching. Dozier came to the department having been a classroom teacher in South Carolina as well as the 1985 Teacher of the Year.



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She explained that the forum will allow Department staff to listen to teachers' perceptions and priorities, as well as developing a partnership with "individuals on the front lines of education -- classroom teachers."

Teachers from 11 schools from CAPE-affiliated organizations will be in attendance at the conference.

New Preschool, Early Education Report

The National Center for Education Statistics has released a new report exploring preschool care and early childhood education. The new survey, "Profile of Preschool Children's Child Care and Early Education Program Participation" provides data from Spring 1991.

A major finding of the report was that more than two-thirds of preschool children in the United States between the ages of 3 and 5 receive care and education on a regular basis from persons other than their parents. This numbers about 5.7 million children. Further, while slightly over three-fourths of preschool children whose mothers are employed receive supplemental care and education from persons other than their parents, about one-half of children whose mothers are not employed also regularly receive such care and education.

The study breaks down the number of children in various types of care and education programs. Over half (53%) of preschool children participate in center-based programs while 30% participate in home-based programs. The remainder are divided between home-based care provided by a relative (17%) and care provided by a non-relative (14%). Further, the average preschoolers spend a total of 19 hours per week in care and education programs.

Copies of the report are available from: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7954. The stock number is 065-000-00554-9 and the price is \$3.25. Orders may be faxed with credit card payments to (202) 512-2250. For more information, contact Elvie Germino Hausken at (202) 219-1623.

Legislative Update:

GOALS 2000 Passes House ...

The Clinton Administration's legislation to reform education passed the House of Representatives on October 13. **H.R. 1804** was approved by a vote of 307 to 118.

The measure, the "Goals 2000: Educate America Act", would authorize \$427 million in FY 94 for state school reform efforts and to establish new national panels to oversee developing academic, school delivery, and job skills standards. However, the appropriations conference at the same time voted to allow only \$155 million for the efforts in this fiscal year.

Besides codifying the National Education Goals, the bill would create the National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC) which would review and approve voluntary national content and student performance standards. Further, state panels would be required to apply for the reform grants made available to states.

... CAPE Opposes Bill

The Senate version of the Goals 2000 bill was reported from the Labor and Human Resources Committee on July 13, with floor action expected before year-end adjournment. CAPE has voiced its opposition to the bill passed by the House and the Senate committee by writing a firm letter to the Senate on October 21.

In the letter, CAPE executive director Joyce G. McCray wrote that despite CAPE's support for "the improvement of American education, we strongly oppose exclusion of the private school community from reform discussions."

The legislation, **S. 1150**, establishes two primary reform committees on the national and state levels. The letters points out that provisions in the bill "enumerate representatives and various stakeholders to be appointed" to the NESIC and state panels. It continues that "Despite other positions being set aside for government officials, teachers, administrators, school board members, researchers, and representatives of business, labor, community-based and civil rights groups, our efforts to ensure a private school voice have been denied."

McCray pointed out that private schools

save taxpayers an "estimated \$27 billion each year" by educating 12% of American students. Therefore, she concluded, "we feel that it is imperative for our community to be represented on panels which will have a profound impact on our schools, teachers, and students."

The letter urged Senators "to amend the legislation to provide this critical voice, or vote to oppose the bill."

Parental Involvement Goal

If several Members of Congress have their way, the six national goals established by the nations' Governors and President Bush at the historic summit in 1989 will be increased by one. Legislation was introduced to encourage "parental participation in both formal and informal education of their children" as a new objective for the country.

S. 1118 by Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon) would formally add the goal of having every school and home "engage in partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting the social, emotional and academic growth of children."

While the Congress has yet to adopt the six national education goals in principal, the "Goals 2000" legislation would do so.

OERI Reauthorization

The House passed **H.R. 856** by voice vote On August 2 which would reauthorize the Department's Office of Education Research and Improvement (OERI) through 1997. It would set up research institutes on various issue areas such as early childhood education, governance, and student achievement.

The legislation was next considered by the Senate education subcommittee on October 21 where a similar measure, **S. 286**, was easily passed. That bill authorizes \$183 million to the office starting in fiscal year 1995. The Senate version establishes a nine-member board of governors to define the research agenda of the agency and set its long term goals. The full committee and Senate must still act on the bill before a joint conference with the House would occur.

The mission of the OERI is to provide leadership to expand knowledge and promote equity and excellence in education.

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ED Funding: 10% of Budget?

During consideration of the education appropriations funding bill, **H.R. 2518**, Senator James M. Jeffords (R-Vermont) sponsored an amendment calling for a one percent, per year increase in education spending until the total education share of the federal budget equals ten percent. (The current level is approximately 6%.) The non-binding, "Sense of the Senate" amendment was approved by voice vote on September 27.

Senator Jeffords and two of his colleagues who co-sponsored the amendment, Senators Chris Dodd (D-Connecticut) and Paul Simon (D-Illinois) came to a meeting with members of the Committee on Education Funding (CEF) of which CAPE is a member. The October 13 session took place in the Capitol.

During the informal presentations by each Member, Senator Simon pointed out that 12 years ago, adjusted for inflation, the federal government spent 2% more on education than we do today. At the same time, he said, "We are spending 97% more on interest on the national debt." While each agreed that the budget constraints are real and serious, they argued that education must become a higher priority for the national government.

CapeNotes



▶ The **National Diffusion Network (NDN)** is promoting a list of their programs which address each of the national education goals. The nationwide system of proven exemplary programs can help students at all levels. With its correlation of the national goals, NDN hopes to show the effectiveness of its programs in addressing the most pressing needs in American schools today and into the 21st century.

CAPE promotes NDN programs to private schools on behalf of the Department of Education through its Private School Facilitator Project. You may request information by contacting its project director, Dr. Charles Nunley at the CAPE Office, (202) 659-0177.

▶ CAPE has a wonderful holiday gift idea for private school patrons. **CAPE coffee mugs** are available for \$10, including postage and handling. The mugs are white ceramic with the burgundy CAPE logo and "Voice of the Nation's Private Schools" printed on them.

You may order by calling Sue Cambria at (202) 659-0016 or sending a check to:

1726 M Street, NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036.

▶ The leaders of 10 private elementary and secondary education associations have agreed to form the **National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)** at a meeting in Chicago in mid-September.

Dr. Charles J. O'Malley, former private education official with the U.S. Department of Education was named the executive director. O'Malley said that "any private school accrediting association operating on national, regional, state and local levels may voluntarily submit their standards and procedures for review by the Council." Once operating, associations whose standards meet NCPSA requirements will receive the equivalent of the "good housekeeping seal of approval," according to O'Malley.

NCPSA has recruited former U.S. Secretary of Education Terral Bell, Connecticut Department of Education School Approval Consultant Dr. Maria Della Bella, and the Chairman of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (also representing the Council on Regional Schools Accrediting Commissions) Dr. John Stoops, to serve on the Council.

The Council will meet in January to review their articles of incorporation.

COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN PRIVATE EDUCATION 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 659-0016, fax (202) 659-0018

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