

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

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Council Members: American Montessori Society • Christian Schools International • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Friends Council on Education • International Christian Accrediting Association • Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod • National Association of Episcopal Schools • National Association of Independent Schools • National Catholic Educational Association • National Society for Hebrew Day Schools • Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education, K-12 • Solomon Schechter Day School Association • Toussaint Institute for Historically Black Independent Schools • U.S. Catholic Conference • Affiliated State Organizations in 31 States

Enrollment Surge

President Clinton last month announced that elementary and secondary school enrollment is higher than ever and is expected to keep climbing. At a White House event to unveil a report by the U.S. Department of Education entitled *The Baby Boom Echo: No End in Sight*, the president spoke of a national need to "meet the challenge of the swelling ranks" of school enrollment.

The Department's document is itself based on a more comprehensive and detailed projection of enrollment released in August by the National Center for Education Statistics. The NCES report, *Projections of Education Statistics to 2009*, indicates a record 53 million students will be enrolled in grades K-12 this year, with 6 million students, or 11 percent of the total, attending private schools. The private school figure represents a 30-year high.

Total K-12 enrollment is expected to increase to 54.5 million by the year 2006, before it starts a slow descent. In private schools, NCES projections show that the number of students should grow by 2 percent between now and 2005, when enrollment is expected to peak, but the degree and timing of the growth will differ considerably at the elementary and secondary levels. Private elementary enrollment is only set to grow another 1 percent through 2002, while secondary enrollment should jump an astounding 10 percent between now and 2007, its projected peak year (see chart on page 2).

The NCES projection methodology assumes future private school enrollment patterns will mirror those in public schools. The models do not anticipate shifts between the two sectors, but instead presume private schools will continue to enroll about 11 percent of the nation's students throughout the projection period.

The NCES document is available on the Web at:
<http://nces.ed.gov>

Teacher Shortage

A government report released last month predicts private schools will need to hire about 568,000 new teachers from 1998 through 2008, and public schools, about 2.4 million. The unusually high need for newly hired teachers is being fueled by a surge in the school-age population (see related story) and a wave in retirements by teachers first hired when baby boomers went to school. And the predicted high demand for teachers could worsen if popular policies promoting smaller class size are adopted. The report's projection models generally assume a continuation of current pupil/teacher ratios.

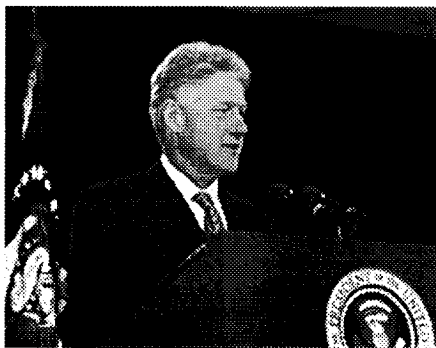
Private schools would seem to face a particularly difficult challenge in coming years. Compared to public schools, the number of new teachers private schools will need represents a higher portion of their current workforce. What's more, as public schools take steps to meet demand, such as raising salaries and expanding benefits, the report suggests "this might be an incentive to private school teachers to move to public schools," thus exacerbating the need for new private school teachers. Although the models used in the report regard the public school sector and the private school sector as independent of

each other, the author warns, "Clearly, there are instances when they are not."

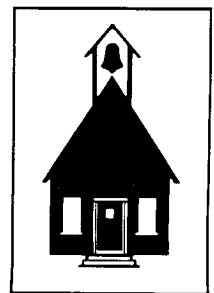
Continuation Rates

In calculating the need for new teachers, the report takes into account something called continuation rates, the percentage of teachers in a given sector in one year who continue teaching in that sector during the following year. From the 1993-94 school year to the

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At a White House event in August, the President unveils the latest *Baby Boom Echo* report.



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1994-95 school year, for example, 93 percent of public school teachers continued teaching in public schools, while 88 percent of private school teachers remained in private schools. The slightly lower continuation rates in private schools translate into a higher need for replacement teachers.

The study looks at continuation rates for three different time periods and also takes into account three scenarios regarding teacher/pupil ratio. Using various combinations of rates and scenarios, the report generates six different predictions of how many newly hired teachers will be needed in schools from 1998-99 through 2008-09. The private school forecasts range from a low of 524,000 to a high of 620,000.

Will Supply Meet Demand?

But for all its predictions, the report does not address the complex issue of supply. Instead it assumes the supply of teachers will meet the demand. The paper points out a number of actions that could affect not only supply but also continuation rates. Increases in salaries and benefits, for example, could be used both to retain current teachers and to attract new ones. Changes in certification requirements could be used either to increase or decrease the supply of available teachers.

Already policymakers across the country are taking steps to respond to the current and looming need for teachers. In Maryland, for example, the state superintendent of schools recently announced a proposal to open teaching positions to candidates with nontraditional credentials. Under the proposed plan, college graduates and mid-career changers who have never taken an education course would be able to become teachers under alternative licensing requirements that allow for on-the-job training.

The NCES report, *Predicting the Need for Newly Hired Teachers in the United States to 2008-09*, is available online at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=1999026>

Court Watch: Choice Under Attack

Cleveland Program Suspended

On August 24, during the first week of school, U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr., ruled that the Cleveland scholarship program could not continue while the court weighs whether it violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In granting the injunction sought by the American Federation of Teachers, the Ohio Education Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, and People for the American Way, the judge disrupted the education plans of an estimated 3,800 scholarship students, who may eventually have to enroll in public schools. The decision also threw a monkey wrench in the workings of the Cleveland public school system, which may have to find places for the scholarship students.

The Cleveland program, in effect since 1996, provides scholarships to low-income children who reside in the city, allowing them to attend a private school, or a public school in an adjacent district. Last May, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the program violates neither the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution nor a similar clause of the Ohio Constitution. The state court, however, invalidated the program on a technicality, declaring it in violation of a section

of the Ohio Constitution that prohibits a bill from containing more than one subject. In June, Ohio lawmakers addressed the technicality and revived the program in a budget bill that was signed by Governor Bob Taft. Opponents then filed suit in federal court, hoping to achieve what they could not accomplish in either the state court or the Ohio legislature.

Following the district court's decision, the Institute for Justice immediately filed an emergency appeal to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, seeking to have the injunction overturned. "This is a potential loss for every student and family in Cleveland," declared Clint Bolick, the Institute's litigation director. "We will not let this decision stand without a fight."

Various organizations and churches, putting the interests of children first, promised to find the resources to keep the students in the schools of their choice this year while the courts consider the case and appeal. Catholic and Lutheran schools said they would continue to educate voucher students; the Institute for Justice said it would try to raise money, and the Children's Scholarship Fund also vowed to help.

Other Programs Under Attack

Meanwhile, school choice opponents were taking aim at new initiatives in two other states. The ACLU, NAACP, NEA, and People for the American Way filed suit this summer in Florida to stop that state's new voucher program, with the AFT filing a separate suit there. And in Illinois, another AFT suit charged that the recently passed education tax credit plan violates the Blaine Amendment and the "compelled support" clause of the state constitution.

The ever vigilant and seemingly indefatigable Institute for Justice is working overtime these days to defend the programs against the slew of suits.



Projected Enrollment Private Schools 1997-2009 (in thousands)			
	K-12	K-8	9-12
1997	5,860	4,552	1,308
1998	5,924	4,597	1,327
1999	5,971	4,622	1,348
2000	6,006	4,646	1,360
2001	6,036	4,666	1,371
2002	6,061	4,674	1,387
2003	6,074	4,668	1,406
2004	6,082	4,651	1,431
2005	6,086	4,625	1,461
2006	6,082	4,602	1,480
2007	6,073	4,589	1,484
2008	6,061	4,584	1,477
2009	6,048	4,585	1,464

A Who's Who Welcome for Agudath Israel of America

When Agudath Israel of America comes to Washington, elected officials tend to pay attention. So, at a day-long assembly this summer of nearly 200 of Agudath's leaders and activists, it was no surprise that a host of who's who dignitaries from Congress and the Administration came forth to pay attention aplenty. By day's end, the delegates from the national organization that represents issues of concern to the American Orthodox Jewish community had met with over a dozen senators and representatives, two ambassadors, the Solicitor General, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Education, and First Lady Hillary Clinton.

Senate Tribute to Rabbi Sherer

Agudath's 1999 National Leadership Mission to Washington began with a tribute on the floor of the Senate to the organization's late, legendary, and well-loved leader, Rabbi Moshe Sherer. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) called Rabbi Sherer "a living example of President Reagan's favorite saying: There's no limit to what you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit for it." Other senators, including John Ashcroft (R-MO), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), and Daniel Moynihan (D-NY), also shared remembrances of, and praise for, Rabbi Sherer.

At midday, Agudath's delegates gathered for a luncheon on Capitol Hill, during which they presented Religious Freedom Awards to two senators, Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and John Kerry (D-MA). Representatives Ben Gilman (R-NY) and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) presented a House resolution honoring Rabbi Sherer and calling him "one of the outstanding American religious leaders of our time." Additional attendees at the luncheon included Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS), Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Charles Schumer (D-NY), John Kyl (R-AZ), Paul Coverdell (R-GA), and Representa-

tatives Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Anthony Weiner (D-NY).

The day concluded with a visit to the White House, where Mrs. Clinton welcomed the delegates, and top-ranking Administration officials briefed them on a range of issues.

Education Concerns

Agudath Israel serves as the public policy representative for the nearly 600 Orthodox Jewish elementary and secondary schools that belong to the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, one of the founding organizations of CAPE. In connection with the Washington gathering, Agudath released its 1999 National Public Policy Position Paper, a compendium of issues of concern to the Orthodox Jewish community. The document featured a prominent section on education, which included support for:

- legislation to ensure that nonpublic school students, parents, and teachers "be on equal or equitable footing with their public school counterparts" when it comes to constitutionally appropriate programs of government benefit;
- strengthening the equitability provisions under IDEA;
- policies, such as tax credits and vouchers, that allow parents to choose the school that is best for their children;
- policies that foster education diversity and that maintain the independence and autonomy of nonpublic schools.

In summing up the day, David Zwiebel, Agudath Israel's Executive Vice President for Government and Public Affairs, called the 1999 Mission "an opportunity for us to better understand our government and to share our views and concerns with our elected representatives."



David Zwiebel (left), Agudath's Executive Vice President, and Abba Cohen (right), Director of Agudath's Washington Office, present the Religious Freedom Award to Sen. John Kerry (D-MA).

Contact Congress on Savings Accounts

The House and Senate last month approved a comprehensive 10-year, \$792 billion tax package that includes a provision for tax-free education savings accounts (ESAs). The ESA provision would expand existing college-level savings accounts by increasing the maximum allowable annual contribution from \$500 to \$2,000 and by allowing the accounts to be used for K-12 expenses.

The president has promised to veto the tax bill, thereby setting the stage for passage of a compromise plan in the weeks ahead. Although CAPE does not have a position on overall tax legislation, it supports the inclusion of K-12 education savings accounts in whatever tax-cut measure Congress finally approves.

You can conveniently send your representatives in Congress an e-mail message urging them to support K-12 education savings accounts by visiting CAPE's Legislative Action Center. The address: <http://www.capenet.org/pubpol.html>



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• With Columbine still a vivid, disturbing memory, teachers and parents are more determined than ever to nurture a peaceful, loving spirit in children and to shield them from the venom of violence. To help parents and educators attain that goal, the Lutheran Disaster Response, a cooperative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, has produced *Perspectives on Violence*. Written from a Christian vantage point, the document includes practical and prayerful advice on what parents and schools can do to guide children through violent times. It is available on the Web at:

http://www.elca.org/dhes/schools/perspectives_on_violence.htm

• D.C. Mayor **Anthony Williams** got the chance of a lifetime at the fragile age of three. According to *The Washington Post*, Williams had been abandoned at birth by a teenage mother, and then had the misfortune of spending the first three years of his life with a neglectful foster family that didn't much talk to

him, let alone love him. At age three, his social workers had decided that little Anthony was unadoptable and were ready to send him to an institution. But then came the chance of a lifetime. Virginia Williams, herself the mother of two toddlers with a third child on the way, convinced her husband, Lewis, to adopt Anthony, whom she described as "the cutest little thing with a winning smile."

The love of Virginia and Lewis ultimately nurtured eight children. For Anthony, that love transformed him from a child of neglect to mayor of the nation's capital. Oh yes, private schools played a role, too. The Williamses enrolled their children in Catholic schools because, as Virginia told the *Post*, she wanted them to be "black, beautiful, and brainy."

• Writing in the July issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*, **Matthew Miller** offers a proposal for school vouchers on which "Milton Friedman, Lamar Alexander, and Kweisi Mfume, the president of the NAACP, all agree." In his provocative article *A Bold Experiment to Fix City Schools*, Miller, a syndicated columnist and a contributing writer for

The New Republic, says that what's missing from the voucher debate "is the progressive pro-voucher perspective." He reports that vouchers "have a long but unappreciated intellectual pedigree among reformers who have sought to help poor children and to equalize funding in rich and poor districts." And although the "voucher left" has not had much political clout and has been largely overlooked by the media, "if urban children are to have any hope, the voucher left's best days must lie ahead."

• For elementary schools wanting to get a head start on applying for the **Blue Ribbon Schools Program**, applications are available now for the 2000-01 elementary school cycle. This early release of the applications will give schools plenty of time to complete the process by the due date, October 2, 2000.

CAPE is the organization designated by the U.S. Department of Education to manage the private school component of the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. For more information about the program and to apply for an application online, visit the Blue Ribbon Schools page of CAPE's Web site at:

<http://www.capenet.org/brs.html>

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