

# cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of America's Private Schools"

September 1990 Number 163

**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 • Soloman Schechter Day School Association • U.S. Catholic Conference • **Affiliated state organizations In:** Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin

## National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

by Joyce McCray

CAPE supports the mission statement of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards which is to establish high and rigorous standards for what teachers should know and be able to do, to certify teachers who meet those standards, and to advance other education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.

In a letter to James Kelley, President of NBPTS, I wrote that CAPE has "applauded the development of professional teaching standards and a board certification process. We are prepared to encourage our top teachers to apply for such a certification." The letter was written, however, to go on record urging the board not to reverse their decision on eligibility requirements endorsing the idea that the opportunity to become certified be offered to any teacher with a bachelor's degree and three years of successful teaching experience.

I continued in the letter that "our top teachers are indeed state licensed and have attended accredited teacher training institutions. We encourage continuous professional development through such means. But our main concern is whether a teacher gets good results — students learn — rather than how he or she arrives at that professional status. Many of our teachers would not meet the restrictive prerequisites, yet are dedicated master

teachers who promote high levels of student learning."

The Board held a second national forum which I attended in Denver in June to review goals and initial policies which have been adopted by the 63 member governing board and to initiate discussion of and feedback about the next phase of work. (Only one private school teacher is currently a member of the Board. CAPE regularly submits names of qualified teachers and educators for the nominating committee to consider.)

Phase II will focus primarily on research and development activities aimed at specifying certification standards for each field identified in the initial framework and developing assessment products and delivery systems.

The crafting of certification standards will involve close collaboration among teachers, scholars, other educators and lay leaders. Assessment product development will be pursued as rapidly as certification standards can be prepared. There are review and feedback opportunities throughout all phases of development. The goal is that the NBPTS would begin assessing its first group of teacher candidates for Board certification in 1993.

The CAPE Board has invited Susan Lloyd, the private school teacher who is a member of the National Board, to meet with them in October. She will be able to share with CAPE the most recent progress of NBPTS

and the CAPE Board will be able to outline concerns and topics for her to report at the next NBPTS meeting.

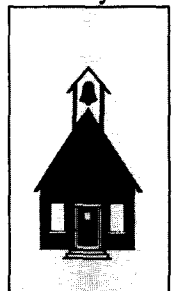
It was clear in Denver that the highest levels of thinking have gone into the development of NBPTS policies: that the desire for feedback is honest and open and that the Board could be a genuine positive force in support of all of the nation's teachers.

I recommend the publication "Toward High and Rigorous Standards for the Teaching Profession" for more information. It can be obtained for \$7 from NBPTS at: 333 West Fort Street; Suite 2070; Detroit, Michigan 48226.

## Recognition Programs

Private schools across the country have once again received letters from CAPE inviting them to apply to two separate recognition programs which CAPE administers on behalf of private schools for the Department of Education. Elementary and secondary schools are recognized in alternate years and we encourage secondary schools to consider seriously the advantages of applying to the 1990-91 program.

CAPE wishes to congratulate the private



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elementary school winners of the 1989-90 Exemplary School awards and the winners of the 1989-90 Drug Free Recognition Program.

Winners of the Exemplary School awards were:

- Corpus Christi School • Mobile, AL
- Sierra Canyon School • Chatsworth, CA
- Bess & Paul Siegel Hebrew Academy of Greater Hartford • Bloomfield, CT
- Saint Brendan School • New Haven, CT
- Corpus Christi School • Wilmington, DE
- Boca Raton Christian • Boca Raton, FL
- St. Isaac Jogues School • Hinsdale, IL
- The School of Saint Mary • Lake Forest, IL
- Hebrew Academy • Indianapolis, IN
- Trinity Lutheran School • Davenport, IA
- Our Lady of Fatima • Lafayette, LA
- St. Leo the Great School • New Orleans, LA
- Ivey Mount School • Rockville, MD
- St. Andrew Apostle • Silver Spring, MD
- Trinity School • Ellicott City, MD
- Tower School • Marblehead, MA
- The Blake School • Hopkins, MN
- Immanuel Lutheran School • St. Charles, MO
- The Churchill School • St. Louis, MO
- Christ the King Catholic School • Omaha, NE
- Hebrew Academy • Margate, NJ
- The Midland School • North Branch, NJ
- Holy Family School • Hicksville, NY
- Orchard School • Yonkers, NY
- Our Lady of Peace School • Lynbrook, NY
- St. Agnes Cathedral • Rockville Center, NY
- St. Joseph School • Long Island City, NY
- Blessed Sacrament School • Burlington, NC
- Incarnation Catholic School • Centerville, OH
- St. Columban Elementary • Loveland, OH
- St. Peter Catholic School • Huber Heights, OH
- St. Timothy School • Columbus, OH
- Holland Hall Middle School • Tulsa, OK
- Our Lady of the Lake • Lake Oswego, OR
- St. Phillip & James School • Exton, PA
- St. Agnes School • Westchester, PA
- Westminster School • Nashville, TN
- Corpus Christi Catholic School • Houston, TX
- Holy Family of Nazareth • Irving, TX
- Master Christi School • Burlington, VT
- Holy Rosary School • Seattle, WA

Winners of the Drug-Free Recognition Program were:

- St. Mary School • Buffalo Grove, IL
- Catholic Elementary of Pointe Coupee • New Roads, LA
- St. John the Baptist • New Brighton, MN
- Boys Town High School • Boys Town, NE
- Christ the King Catholic School • Omaha, NE
- Wegner Middle School • Boys Town, NE
- Creighton Preparatory School • Omaha, NE
- Virginia Episcopal • Lynchburg, VA
- Roncalli High School • Manitowoc, WI.

## New CAPE Staff:

Greg D. Kubiak has been appointed Assistant Executive Director and Government Liaison effective August 13, 1990. He has worked for U. S. Senator David Boren, first as a field representative in Oklahoma and then as Legislative Assistant in Washington, D. C. handling the areas of education, banking, government affairs, justice and budget. He was then Chief Legislative Assistant supervising and coordinating a staff of six legislative assistants to monitor, analyze, and draft legislation for the Senator. His principal activity centered around Senator Boren's work on the campaign finance reform issue. Kubiak also worked extensively on the Senator's initiatives in education having helped develop the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence, a non-profit organization which promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding students and teachers. His duties at CAPE include following issues of concern to private schools on the Hill and editing CAPE's monthly newsletter OUTLOOK.

Jane W. Faller has been appointed associate administrator. She and her family have recently moved to Washington from California where Faller was Director of Admissions at the Chadwick School. She will assist the executive director, manage the office, and represent CAPE at various meetings as needed.

Mary Kay McGeown has accepted a position as Projects Coordinator through December 1990. She was most recently a Carpenter Fellow for first year teaching at the Taft School in Connecticut. She will coordinate two programs, the Exemplary Schools Recognition Program and the Drug Free School Recognition Program, which CAPE administers on behalf of private schools for the Department of Education.

## Legislative Update:

### Budget Negotiations:

Facing the fiscal year deadline of October 1 with a looming \$169 billion deficit, Congress and the President are scurrying to come up with a bi-partisan budget package. Under the Gramm/Rudman/Hollings Budget Act, nearly \$106 billion must be cut from current spending to meet

the deficit reduction target. If a compromise is not reached, a sequestration order will force a 32% across-the-board cut in nondefense, discretionary spending.

The Department of Education could stand to lose about \$7.5 billion of its \$26.9 billion fiscal '91 budget.

## Charitable Tax Break at Stake?

Negotiators within the ongoing Budget Summit have surfaced the idea of limiting the current tax deduction for charitable giving. As charitable gifts are essential to non-profits, CAPE has written each participant of the Budget Summit warning that such limitations would cause an "immediate decrease in giving to charities, churches, schools, and other important nonprofit organizations."

Demonstrating the strength of the incentive, figures show that from 1985 to 1986, nonitemizers increased their giving to charities from \$9.5 billion to \$13.4 billion when the allowance for deductions increased from 50% to 100%. However, the 1986 Tax Reform Act ended tax deductibility for 72 million taxpayers who do not itemize.

The CAPE letter urged summitters to protect this tax incentive as "one of the most powerful motivations for giving," otherwise, fewer contributions could mean our "schools will be forced to reduce services or close."

## Excellence in Education Act:

The House passed H. R. 5115, the "Equity and Excellence in Education Act" on July 20 authorizing \$5.4 billion for national education programs. The measure, approved 350 to 25, would fund expanded literacy programs, teacher training and basic educational programs such as Chapter 1.

The bill would also create awards for "Presidential Schools of Distinction" to recognize schools with improved student achievement as well as the "Presidential Awards for Excellence in Education" for teachers who demonstrate outstanding performance and results in the classroom. Private and public schools would be eligible for both of these awards.

As the Senate passed a



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similar bill in February, both Houses will soon meet in a conference committee to work out differences before sending the measure to President Bush.

### Child Care Conference Continues:

The House-Senate Conference Committee will continue to meet after the August recess to work out a compromise on the "Act for Better Child Care Services" bills (H.R. 3 & S.5). The \$1.8 billion bill is still deadlocked over the issue of state grants and child care tax credits.

### Radon Bill In Senate:

The Senate Subcommittee on Superfund, Ocean and Water Protection, approved by voice vote S. 1679, a bill to require schools in high radon regions to test for the gas by 1993.

The measure would authorize \$5 million annually from 1993 to 1996 for grants to schools to fund as much as half the costs of testing.

The bill has yet to be scheduled for full committee or Senate floor debate.

### Disabilities Bill Signed:

The President signed into law the "Americans with Disabilities Act" in a large White House signing ceremony July 26, stating that the bill will let the "wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down." The four basic titles will prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment, public accommodations and services, and telecommunications. By July

1992, employers cannot discriminate against a "person who, with or without reasonable accommodations, can perform the essential functions of the employment position that such individual holds or desires."

The Act will also require all new construction and alterations that "could affect usability or access to an area of the facility containing a primary function of the entity" be made accessible to disabled persons. All schools are subject to this provision, except those affiliated with a religious organization.

A religious tenet exemption further states that "religious organizations may require that all applicants and employees conform to the religious tenets of such organization."

### Asbestos Progresses:

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved a bill (S.1893) to reauthorize the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act for five years, doubling the level of funding to \$250 million annually. The House has yet to report a similar measure out of committee.

The bill would extend the grant and loan program to fund the removal of asbestos from schools. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated removal costs nationally to be over \$3 billion. CAPE, testifying before a Senate subcommittee in June, asserted that Catholic schools alone would have to spend \$1 billion to cover asbestos abatement. Others maintain that the EPA estimate must be doubled to account for the costs associated with asbestos.

## Capenotes:



▶ A study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that independent school 8th graders were twice as likely to enroll in advanced math, science, and arts courses than their public school counterparts.

The report found that 69 percent of private school students took advanced math courses compared with 31 percent of public school students. Further, 87 percent of independent school students studied a foreign language, compared to 23 percent in public schools.

A copy of the report can be obtained from NCES; 555 New Jersey Ave., NW, Room 417; Washington, D. C. 20208; (202)357-6737.

▶ An Oregon "Choice" Initiative to grant tax credits that would cover private school tuition will be on the November ballot. Under the plan, parents could receive a tax credit of up to \$2,500 a year for each child.

Petitions bearing 127,000 signatures were filed by a group called "Oregonians for Educational Choice." John E. Chubb, a Brookings Institution fellow and co-author of a recent study advocating educational choice, was quoted in a New York Times story stating, "It's the most comprehensive school choice reform that has ever gotten this far." This is believed to be the first choice plan to be tested by ballot.

▶ The first annual National Diffusion Network Staff Development Institute was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Catholic Education in June 1989. It was held on the campus of LaSalle University and featured nine workshops selected from the nearly 500 programs offered by the NDN of the U.S. Department of Education. Workshops were targeted to teachers across grade levels and disciplines according to the expressed needs of the Archdiocese.

Though teacher participation was voluntary, the program was a resounding success and was repeated in June 1990 with 17 NDN programs. Teacher participation, again voluntary, increased by 65 percent.

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CAPE, through its NDN Private School Facilitator Project, assisted with the development of the institute and has encouraged other private schools to consider the concept as a means of building a comprehensive, ongoing staff development program for their teachers. As a result of those efforts, four institutes were completed in 1990 with six already scheduled for 1991.

For further information, contact Dr. Charles Nunley at CAPE- NDN; 1726 "M" Street, NW, Suite 1102; Washington, D. C. 20036 or telephone (202) 659-0177.

▶ The Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution has announced the November 19, 1990 deadline for its "Bicentennial Educational Grant Program" competition. This year's program encourages the submission of proposals focusing on the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments.

For program announcements and information on future programs offered by the Commission, contact them at: 808 17th Street, NW; Washington, D.C. 20006-3999 or call (202) 653-5110.

▶ The National Endowment for the Humanities sponsors the **Younger Scholars Award**, a unique program for high school students and college students below the senior level. The awards go to individuals wishing to do research and writing proj-

ects in the humanities. Awards are \$2,200 for college students and \$1,800 for high school students (each stipend includes \$400 for the project advisor.)

Application deadline for the 1991 awards is November 1, 1990. You may request further information and applications forms from:

"Younger Scholars Guidelines," Room 316; Division of Fellowships and Seminars; National Endowment for the Humanities; 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; Washington, D.C. 20506 or call (202) 786-0463.

▶ GTE Corporation will be the underwriter of a new five-part science education series on PBS this fall titled, **Scientific American FRONTIERS**.

Produced in association with Scientific American magazine, FRONTIERS combines the television series with valuable, related teaching materials and off-air taping rights as a free educational resource for science teachers of grades 7 through 12. Resources include teacher's guides, reproducible activity sheets, posters and a newsletter mailed to arrive before each show.

The first of the series appears on October 10 from 8-9:00 p.m. (Check local PBS listings for channel.)

Educators may enroll in the program by calling 1-800-523-5948 to receive the free teaching materials.

▶ The "Hands-On Elementary Science" project has been adopted in 52 private schools and 564 public schools in 31 states with about 2,000 teachers trained during the first two and one half years of operation.

This science program has twice been identified as an exemplary program by the National Search for Excellence in Science Education. It has also been cited as "an outstanding curriculum project" by the National Association of School Boards.

For more information, contact Dean A. Wood, Project Director, at Hood College, Frederick, MD 21701, or call (301) 663-3131 ext. 205, or contact Dr. Charles Nunley at the CAPE office.

▶ The U. S. Department of Education has issued an updated **Chapter 1 Policy Manual** to all state coordinators. While manuals have been sent to each local educational agency (LEA) in the country, extra copies are available for \$22 by writing: Superintendent of Documents; Washington, D. C. 20402. (The stock number to use when ordering is 065-000-00420-8.)

▶ In 1965, 10 percent of preschool students were of ages 3 or 4. By 1989, that number was up to nearly 39 percent in public or private, full or partial day programs.

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a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12  
Editor: Greg D. Kubiak Executive Director: Joyce McCray  
[ISSN 0271-1451]

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

cape outlook

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