

cape Council for American Private Education outlook

"Voice of the Nation's Private Schools"

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Clinton Administration Offers Reform Bill

On April 21, President Bill Clinton sent Capitol Hill his "Goals 2000: Educate America Act", a \$420 million bill to "forge a new partnership in American education to achieve world-class teaching and learning." The reform package, which greatly resembles a bill passed in Congress last year, would codify the National Education Goals and provide grants to states with plans to meet them.

Three Large Themes

In a press conference announcing the bill, Secretary of Education Richard Riley described the bill as having three large themes: change, opportunity and responsibility, and the economy. "During the campaign, Bill Clinton offered the nation a change from the past, a challenge to the status quo," Riley said. "This bill will encourage fundamental reform in schools and schools systems throughout the country."

In addition to codifying the six national education goals established by President Bush and the nation's governors -- including then-Governor Bill Clinton -- the "Goals 2000" bill would provide grants to states and communities to develop action plans of reform. This title of the bill would authorize \$393 million in fiscal year 1994 for improvements in curriculum, instruction, teacher preparation, assessments, and strategies for involving parents, schools and communities.

Riley continued by explaining the President's commitment to offering the nation a "New Covenant based on increased opportunity and responsibility" which was discussed during the campaign. "By improving both quality and equality in education nationwide, 'Goals 2000' will increase opportunity for all students" and "make schools more responsible for improving results for all students."

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Richard Riley, Secretary,
U.S. Department of Education

Besides funding a bi-partisan National Education Goals Panel charged with reporting progress toward achieving the goals, the legislation would establish an additional panel. The National Education Standards and Improvement Council would set criteria for approving voluntary national standards that are geared to the best in the world regarding what students should know and be able to do. Further, the 20-member board would set criteria on what schools should provide and what assessments would best measure success.

On his third point -- the economy -- Riley said that "by encouraging educational reform across America, 'Goals 2000' will help create a high-skill, high-wage workforce that is the best in the world." Addressing that theme, he explained that the bill would establish a representative "National Skill Standards Board that would identify essential occupational skills and create a voluntary system of standards, assessments and certification that would facilitate life-long learning opportunities and high skills for all Americans."

The 28-member board was discussed by Department of Labor Secretary Robert Reich who joined in the announcement. "The United States is the only industrialized nation without a formal system for developing and disseminating occupational skill standards," Riley said. "With reliable, performance-based standards ... workers can certify they have mastered the skills necessary for world-class productivity and students can earn credentials which are portable and recognizable."

Reluctance and Repetition

Some have noted little difference between the reform bill from President Bush and the previous Congress and the new Clinton proposal. *TIME* magazine ran a May 3



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news article with the headline: "Pallid Plan for Schools: Clinton's education program turns out to be 1990-vintage George Bush." The news clip was critical of Clinton for side-stepping the toughest issues in education: national testing for students and teachers, funding equalization between rich and poor districts, and school choice.

Though the final version of the 1992 bill never made it to President Bush's desk, it was similar to Goals 2000. Besides codifying the national goals, its crux was \$700 million for states to set up system-wide reform plans.

Others were more specific in their reluctance to support the Clinton plan. At a May 4 hearing, the ranking Republican on the Senate Labor and Education Committee referred to the bill as "bureaucratic" and stifling of local reform efforts. Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kansas) said, "My single biggest concern with the bill is that its bureaucratic and prescriptive nature and top-down approach may stifle rather than assist reform efforts which are already being undertaken at the state and local levels."

Secretary Riley, testifying at that hearing in support of the bill, said, "At the Federal level, we can best help by supporting local and State reformers and motivating, leading and providing information and incentive money for state and local communities that are looking for ways to improve."

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) supported the Secretary and Goals 2000 by claiming it is "an important first step toward revitalizing education in communities" and will lay "the foundation for both education reform and job training reform."

CAPE Concerns and Questions

Immediately obvious to CAPE officials was the absence of legislative language in the bill referring to private schools. Despite the inclusion of private school students in the National Education Goals upon their formation in 1990, this legislation appeared ambiguous, if not exclusive.

In response to this and other specific concerns, CAPE executive director Joyce G. McCray wrote to Secretary Riley and House education subcommittee chairman, Representative Dale Kildee (D-Michigan). The

letters outlined five specific questions regarding the inclusion of private school students and schools in various aspects of the bill. The letter noted that "private schools will be affected by the legislation in significant ways even if they are formally excluded from it."

Addressing concerns expressed by officials with the United States Catholic Conference and the CAPE letter, the legislation reported from the subcommittee on May 6 reflected some requested changes. The markup substitute legislation approved by the subcommittee now provides for various opportunities for professional development and reform program dissemination that had been previously unstated in the Administration bill. McCray said that CAPE will continue to monitor and report on the progress of the legislation and press for the appropriate inclusion of private school students.

New ED Manual on Recruitment

As we move into the next century, American educators must be prepared to face the challenges of our nation's changing demographic composition, social institutions, and economy. The Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) of the U.S. Department of Education believes leadership is needed to help our schools confront these changes.

Considering the changing demographics in our student populations in all schools, there are not enough minorities and women being encouraged to move through the education administration pipeline according to OERI. *Strengthening Support and Recruitment of Women and Minorities to Positions in Education Administration*, published by OERI, provides information and strategies for use by schools to increase access to educational administrative positions for minorities and women; expand their pool of qualified administrators; and fill vacancies and anticipated shortages.

The manual is directed at a diverse audience, primarily for education "employers" and the greater community of people whose voices might be heard when decisions about leadership employment are made. It contains a bibliography and list of other resources on the national, regional

and state levels.

It can be used as a training tool to enable participants to design profiles of demographic data; become knowledgeable about successful strategies and programs for recruitment, promotion and leadership; recognize the need for purposeful planning; and, develop an action plan for their school.

Copies of the manual are available from: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. The stock number is 065-000-00546-9 and the price is \$13.00. Credit card orders may be faxed to (202) 512-2250.

Recognition Programs Update

by Fay O'Brien

The U.S. Department of Education is currently preparing to begin both the Blue Ribbon Schools 1993-94 Elementary School Recognition Program (BRSRP) and the 1993-94 Drug-Free School Recognition Program (DFSRP). CAPE administers both programs of behalf of the U.S. Department of Education.

All elementary private school principals will receive a letter of invitation for the BRSRP by the end of May. The DFSRP letter of invitation will go out to elementary and secondary school principals in early June. Along with the invitation to participate will be a request for application. CAPE will send out an application upon receipt of this form.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that are judged to be exemplary representatives of their school type. We encourage all types of schools to apply, as the program offers the opportunity to foster broader national understanding of the nature, strength and diversity of American education.

The Drug-Free School Program recognizes schools with an unusually good drug and alcohol prevention and intervention program resulting in substantial reduction or abstinence in student drug, alcohol, tobacco use, with an ongoing commitment to become drug-free. The Drug-Free School distinction offers schools the chance to serve as



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models, helping others to seek solutions to this important national problem.

We look forward to having many private schools participating in these programs. If you do not receive the mailing or would like more information please contact Fay O'Brien, Project Coordinator, CAPE, 1726 M St. Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036 or call at (202) 659-0016.

Turner Broadcasting Offers Help for Classrooms

Turner Educational Services, Inc., affiliated with the Turner Broadcasting System, is providing a new magazine, *T3* (Television, Technology & Teaching), free of charge to CNN NEWSROOM's 35,000 educators using television in their classrooms. CNN NEWSROOM is a 15-minute, commercial-free newscast for the nation's schools. (It airs weekdays on CNN at 3:45 a.m. (ET) to allow participating teachers to set their school's VCR to tape the program for classroom use.)

T3 features educators across all grades and curriculum areas, showcasing their innovative uses of TESI's products and services, and introducing them to new resources for their classrooms in the Turner Multimedia catalog. It is also a resource for educators, helping them understand, ac-

cess, and apply television and available technologies to meet their teaching goals. It provides an active forum for teachers to speak to one another about television, technology and teaching.

Turner Broadcasting's Chairman and President, R.E. "Ted" Turner said, "The readiness of 25,000 schools to use daily news reports across the curriculum demonstrates a tremendous interest in bringing the events and issues of the world into the classroom."

Other services provided by TESI include video libraries, electronic field trips, language learning with the Cartoon Network, and a variety of online resources. For more information on the magazine, CNN NEWSROOM or other services and products of Turner Educational Services, teachers should call 1-800-344-6219.

Legislative Update:

ESEA Revision Due

Congress will soon receive recommendations from the Clinton Administration on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, H.R. 6. That basic act includes all major federal programs affecting elementary and secondary schools in the nation. The Department of Education is said to be preparing to submit its recommendation to Congress by May 15.

CAPE provided input to Secretary of Education Richard Riley in the Department's

preparation of their recommendation. The March 30 letter conveyed CAPE's views on the current programs and services funded under ESEA. Additionally, CAPE executive director Joyce McCray asked Riley in the letter that "any new aspect of the reauthorization legislation implement and encourage the full and fair representation of private schools."

CAPE Supports Charitable Deduction Exemption

CAPE has joined with several other non-profit, educational and philanthropic organizations in urging the Congress to remove the tax deduction for charitable gifts from the current 3% floor on itemized deductions. The provision is subject to consideration as a part of the budget reconciliation bill.

In the deficit reduction and revenue measure passed in 1990, a provision was added causing concern for charitable giving. Under current law, higher income taxpayers must reduce charitable and other tax deductions by 3% of their adjusted gross income.

The charitable community opposed this tax change because, after medical and local tax payment deductions, the 3% adjustment could discourage taxpayers from making charitable gifts if their full value were not deductible. Further, even though the 3% floor was meant as a temporary tax-raising measure, once established, it is typical for such devices to become permanent and to

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request form below:**

Legislative Conference

State CAPE Network

National Diffusion Network

Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Program

Drug-Free School Recognition Program

Private School of the United States

"Facts about Private Schools as Background for
the Debate on Parental Choice"

Choice Statement

(Name)

(Title/Organization)

(Street Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Phone & Fax numbers)

Mail to: CAPE, 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20036

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incrementally increase over the years. This 1990 provision is set to expire in 1995.

CAPE joined with Independent Sector in urging the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee to support removal of charitable gifts from the 3% reduction rule. In a letter to Representative Dan Rostenkowski (D-Illinois) the organizations stated, "As Congress focuses on new legislation to address the current ills of our economy we urge the elimination of the 3% floor on the charitable tax deduction as one important means of encouraging increased contributions to groups providing a large array of human services."

The House committee is due to complete its markup of the omnibus budget resolution reconciliation (H. Con. Res. 64) by May 14.

Asbestos Funding Hearing Held

The House Appropriations subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies held a hearing May 4 on the 1994 funding for the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act (ASHAA) Reauthorization. Rev. William Davis, O.S.F.S. of the United States Catholic Conference, a CAPE member organization, testified before the panel.

Davis contended that "\$200 million is the absolute minimum needed if all schools,

public and private, are to have the financial support necessary to eliminate or safely reduce the asbestos hazards that have or continue to seriously endanger the health and safety of all the young people enrolled in all of our nation's schools."

According to Environmental Protection Agency figures cited by Davis, the EPA has only awarded \$422.3 million in the eight years since the ASHAA was passed. However, \$2.758 billion has been requested by over 16,000 schools.

Davis concluded that Congress "has imposed a tremendous financial burden" in requiring removal, remediation or management of asbestos in schools. He continued that Congress must "provide adequate funding to all schools in order to enable them to meet their statutory obligations."

Extended School Year

Representative Robert Torricelli (D-New Jersey) introduced H.R. 1337 which would establish demonstration grants for extending length of the academic year. The bill would fund \$10 million in grants over a three-year period to secondary schools to extend the school year from 180 to 220 days and to increase the time in school from 6 to 7 hours.

The legislation also calls for the Secre-

tary of Education to study various indicators and results of the demonstrations to be completed by January 1, 1997. No hearings on the bill have been scheduled.

Capenotes:

► The National Association of Independent Schools will again offer its **Summer Diversity Workshop** series from June 26 to July 1. It is a way for school heads, administrators, teachers, parents, trustees, and others interested in issues of diversity to explore how independent schools can be leaders in achieving diversity in curriculum, student bodies and faculties. This year's workshop will be held at Cheyney State University in Cheyney, Pennsylvania.

The workshop emphasizes three major arenas for action: fostering a supportive school climate, enriching curricula; and training administrators and faculty in diversity initiatives.

Workshop enrollment is limited and the deadline for registration is May 21. Contact Katie Morris at NAIS for more information: c/o NAIS Department of Diversity and Multicultural Services, 75 Federal Street, Boston, Mass. 02110 or call (617) 451-2444.



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a coalition of 14 national associations serving private schools K-12

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