

**A Nation at Risk:**  
**The Imperative for Educational Reform**

A Report to the Nation  
and the Secretary of Education  
United States Department of Education  
by  
The National Commission on Excellence in Education  
April 1983

April 26, 1983

Honorable T. H. Bell  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On August 26, 1981, you created the National Commission on Excellence in Education and directed it to present a report on the quality of education in America to you and to the American people by April of 1983.

It has been my privilege to chair this endeavor and on behalf of the members of the Commission it is my pleasure to transmit this report, *A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform*.

Our purpose has been to help define the problems afflicting American education and to provide solutions, not search for scapegoats. We addressed the main issues as we saw them, but have not attempted to treat the subordinate matters in any detail. We were forthright in our discussions and have been candid in our report regarding both the strengths and weaknesses of American education.

The Commission deeply believes that the problems we have discerned in American education can be both understood and corrected if the people of our country, together with those who have public responsibility in the matter, care enough and are courageous enough to do what is required.

Each member of the Commission appreciates your leadership in having asked this diverse group of persons to examine one of the central issues which will define our Nation's future. We especially welcomed your confidence throughout the course of our deliberations and your anticipation of a report free of political partisanship.

It is our collective and earnest hope that you will continue to provide leadership in this effort by assuring wide dissemination and full discussion of this report, and by encouraging appropriate action throughout the country. We believe that materials compiled by the Commission in the course of its work constitute a major resource for all persons interested in American education.

The other Commissioners and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to have served our country as members of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, and on their behalf I remain,

Respectfully,

*David Pierpont Gardner*  
Chairman

## **Members of the National Commission on Excellence in Education**

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## **Introduction**

Secretary of Education T. H. Bell created the National Commission on Excellence in Education on August 26, 1981, directing it to examine the quality of education in the United States and to make a report to the Nation and to him within 18 months of its first meeting. In accordance with the Secretary's instructions, this report contains practical recommendations for educational improvement and fulfills the Commission's responsibilities under the terms of its charter.

The Commission was created as a result of the Secretary's concern about "the widespread public perception that something is seriously remiss in our educational system." Soliciting the "support of all who care about our future," the Secretary noted that he was establishing the Commission based on his "responsibility to provide leadership, constructive criticism, and effective assistance to schools and universities."

The Commission's charter contained several specific charges to which we have given particular attention. These included:

- assessing the quality of teaching and learning in our Nation's public and private schools, colleges, and universities;
- comparing American schools and colleges with those of other advanced nations;
- studying the relationship between college admissions requirements and student achievement in high school;
- identifying educational programs which result in notable student success in college;
- assessing the degree to which major social and educational changes in the last quarter century have affected student achievement; and
- defining problems which must be faced and overcome if we are successfully to pursue the course of excellence in education.

The Commission's charter directed it to pay particular attention to teenage youth, and we have done so largely by focusing on high schools. Selective attention was given to the formative years spent in elementary schools, to higher education, and to vocational and technical programs. We refer those interested in the need for similar reform in higher education to the recent report of the American Council on Education, *To Strengthen the Quality of Higher Education*.

In going about its work the Commission has relied in the main upon five sources of information:

- papers commissioned from experts on a variety of educational issues;
- administrators, teachers, students, representatives of professional and public groups, parents, business leaders, public officials, and scholars who testified at eight meetings of the full Commission, six public hearings, two panel discussions,

a symposium, and a series of meetings organized by the Department of Education's Regional Offices;

- existing analyses of problems in education;
- letters from concerned citizens, teachers, and administrators who volunteered extensive comments on problems and possibilities in American education; and
- descriptions of notable programs and promising approaches in education.

To these public-minded citizens who took the trouble to share their concerns with us--frequently at their own expense in time, money, and effort--we extend our thanks. In all cases, we have benefited from their advice and taken their views into account; how we have treated their suggestions is, of course, our responsibility alone. In addition, we are grateful to the individuals in schools, universities, foundations, business, government, and communities throughout the United States who provided the facilities and staff so necessary to the success of our many public functions.

The Commission was impressed during the course of its activities by the diversity of opinion it received regarding the condition of American education and by conflicting views about what should be done. In many ways, the membership of the Commission itself reflected that diversity and difference of opinion during the course of its work. This report, nevertheless, gives evidence that men and women of good will can agree on common goals and on ways to pursue them.

The [Commission's charter](#), the authors and topics of [commissioned papers](#), a list of the [public events](#), and a [roster of the Commission's staff](#) are included in the appendices which complete this volume.



## A Nation At Risk

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*All, regardless of race or class or economic status, are entitled to a fair chance and to the tools for developing their individual powers of mind and spirit to the utmost. This promise means that all children by virtue of their own efforts, competently guided, can hope to attain the mature and informed judgement needed to secure gainful employment, and to manage their own lives, thereby serving not only their own interests but also the progress of society itself.*

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Our Nation is at risk. Our once unchallenged preeminence in commerce, industry, science, and technological innovation is being overtaken by competitors throughout the world. This report is concerned with only one of the many causes and dimensions of the problem, but it is the one that undergirds American prosperity, security, and civility. We report to the American people that while we can take justifiable pride in what our schools and colleges have historically accomplished and contributed to the United States and the well-being of its people, the educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and a people. What was unimaginable a generation ago has begun to occur--others are matching and surpassing our educational attainments.

If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves. We have even squandered the gains in student achievement made in the wake of the Sputnik challenge. Moreover, we have dismantled essential support systems which helped make those gains possible. We have, in effect, been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament.

Our society and its educational institutions seem to have lost sight of the basic purposes of schooling, and of the high expectations and disciplined effort needed to attain them. This report, the result of 18 months of study, seeks to generate reform of our educational system in fundamental ways and to renew the Nation's commitment to schools and colleges of high quality throughout the length and breadth of our land.

That we have compromised this commitment is, upon reflection, hardly surprising, given the multitude of often conflicting demands we have placed on our Nation's schools and colleges. They are routinely called on to provide solutions to personal, social, and political problems that the home and other institutions either will not or cannot resolve. We must understand that these demands on our schools and colleges often exact an educational cost as well as a financial one.

On the occasion of the Commission's first meeting, President Reagan noted the central importance of education in American life when he said: "Certainly there are few areas of American life as important to our society, to our people, and to our families as our schools and colleges." This report, therefore, is as much an open letter to the American

people as it is a report to the Secretary of Education. We are confident that the American people, properly informed, will do what is right for their children and for the generations to come.

## **The Risk**

History is not kind to idlers. The time is long past when American's destiny was assured simply by an abundance of natural resources and inexhaustible human enthusiasm, and by our relative isolation from the malignant problems of older civilizations. The world is indeed one global village. We live among determined, well-educated, and strongly motivated competitors. We compete with them for international standing and markets, not only with products but also with the ideas of our laboratories and neighborhood workshops. America's position in the world may once have been reasonably secure with only a few exceptionally well-trained men and women. It is no longer.

The risk is not only that the Japanese make automobiles more efficiently than Americans and have government subsidies for development and export. It is not just that the South Koreans recently built the world's most efficient steel mill, or that American machine tools, once the pride of the world, are being displaced by German products. It is also that these developments signify a redistribution of trained capability throughout the globe. Knowledge, learning, information, and skilled intelligence are the new raw materials of international commerce and are today spreading throughout the world as vigorously as miracle drugs, synthetic fertilizers, and blue jeans did earlier. If only to keep and improve on the slim competitive edge we still retain in world markets, we must dedicate ourselves to the reform of our educational system for the benefit of all--old and young alike, affluent and poor, majority and minority. Learning is the indispensable investment required for success in the "information age" we are entering.

Our concern, however, goes well beyond matters such as industry and commerce. It also includes the intellectual, moral, and spiritual strengths of our people which knit together the very fabric of our society. The people of the United States need to know that individuals in our society who do not possess the levels of skill, literacy, and training essential to this new era will be effectively disenfranchised, not simply from the material rewards that accompany competent performance, but also from the chance to participate fully in our national life. A high level of shared education is essential to a free, democratic society and to the fostering of a common culture, especially in a country that prides itself on pluralism and individual freedom.

For our country to function, citizens must be able to reach some common understandings on complex issues, often on short notice and on the basis of conflicting or incomplete evidence. Education helps form these common understandings, a point Thomas Jefferson made long ago in his justly famous dictum:

I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a

wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion.

Part of what is at risk is the promise first made on this continent: All, regardless of race or class or economic status, are entitled to a fair chance and to the tools for developing their individual powers of mind and spirit to the utmost. This promise means that all children by virtue of their own efforts, competently guided, can hope to attain the mature and informed judgment needed to secure gainful employment, and to manage their own lives, thereby serving not only their own interests but also the progress of society itself.

### **Indicators of the Risk**

The educational dimensions of the risk before us have been amply documented in testimony received by the Commission. For example:

- International comparisons of student achievement, completed a decade ago, reveal that on 19 academic tests American students were never first or second and, in comparison with other industrialized nations, were last seven times.
- Some 23 million American adults are functionally illiterate by the simplest tests of everyday reading, writing, and comprehension.
- About 13 percent of all 17-year-olds in the United States can be considered functionally illiterate. Functional illiteracy among minority youth may run as high as 40 percent.
- Average achievement of high school students on most standardized tests is now lower than 26 years ago when Sputnik was launched.
- Over half the population of gifted students do not match their tested ability with comparable achievement in school.
- The College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) demonstrate a virtually unbroken decline from 1963 to 1980. Average verbal scores fell over 50 points and average mathematics scores dropped nearly 40 points.
- College Board achievement tests also reveal consistent declines in recent years in such subjects as physics and English.
- Both the number and proportion of students demonstrating superior achievement on the SATs (i.e., those with scores of 650 or higher) have also dramatically declined.
- Many 17-year-olds do not possess the "higher order" intellectual skills we should expect of them. Nearly 40 percent cannot draw inferences from written material; only one-fifth can write a persuasive essay; and only one-third can solve a mathematics problem requiring several steps.
- There was a steady decline in science achievement scores of U.S. 17-year-olds as measured by national assessments of science in 1969, 1973, and 1977.
- Between 1975 and 1980, remedial mathematics courses in public 4-year colleges increased by 72 percent and now constitute one-quarter of all mathematics courses taught in those institutions.
- Average tested achievement of students graduating from college is also lower.
- Business and military leaders complain that they are required to spend millions of dollars on costly remedial education and training programs in such basic skills as

reading, writing, spelling, and computation. The Department of the Navy, for example, reported to the Commission that one-quarter of its recent recruits cannot read at the ninth grade level, the minimum needed simply to understand written safety instructions. Without remedial work they cannot even begin, much less complete, the sophisticated training essential in much of the modern military.

These deficiencies come at a time when the demand for highly skilled workers in new fields is accelerating rapidly. For example:

- Computers and computer-controlled equipment are penetrating every aspect of our lives--homes, factories, and offices.
- One estimate indicates that by the turn of the century millions of jobs will involve laser technology and robotics.
- Technology is radically transforming a host of other occupations. They include health care, medical science, energy production, food processing, construction, and the building, repair, and maintenance of sophisticated scientific, educational, military, and industrial equipment.

Analysts examining these indicators of student performance and the demands for new skills have made some chilling observations. Educational researcher Paul Hurd concluded at the end of a thorough national survey of student achievement that within the context of the modern scientific revolution, "We are raising a new generation of Americans that is scientifically and technologically illiterate." In a similar vein, John Slaughter, a former Director of the National Science Foundation, warned of "a growing chasm between a small scientific and technological elite and a citizenry ill-informed, indeed uninformed, on issues with a science component."

But the problem does not stop there, nor do all observers see it the same way. Some worry that schools may emphasize such rudiments as reading and computation at the expense of other essential skills such as comprehension, analysis, solving problems, and drawing conclusions. Still others are concerned that an over-emphasis on technical and occupational skills will leave little time for studying the arts and humanities that so enrich daily life, help maintain civility, and develop a sense of community. Knowledge of the humanities, they maintain, must be harnessed to science and technology if the latter are to remain creative and humane, just as the humanities need to be informed by science and technology if they are to remain relevant to the human condition. Another analyst, Paul Copperman, has drawn a sobering conclusion. Until now, he has noted:

Each generation of Americans has outstripped its parents in education, in literacy, and in economic attainment. For the first time in the history of our country, the educational skills of one generation will not surpass, will not equal, will not even approach, those of their parents.

It is important, of course, to recognize that *the average citizen* today is better educated and more knowledgeable than the average citizen of a generation ago--more literate, and exposed to more mathematics, literature, and science. The positive impact of this fact on the well-being of our country and the lives of our people cannot be overstated.

Nevertheless, *the average graduate* of our schools and colleges today is not as well-educated as the average graduate of 25 or 35 years ago, when a much smaller proportion of our population completed high school and college. The negative impact of this fact likewise cannot be overstated.

## **Hope and Frustration**

Statistics and their interpretation by experts show only the surface dimension of the difficulties we face. Beneath them lies a tension between hope and frustration that characterizes current attitudes about education at every level.

We have heard the voices of high school and college students, school board members, and teachers; of leaders of industry, minority groups, and higher education; of parents and State officials. We could hear the hope evident in their commitment to quality education and in their descriptions of outstanding programs and schools. We could also hear the intensity of their frustration, a growing impatience with shoddiness in many walks of American life, and the complaint that this shoddiness is too often reflected in our schools and colleges. Their frustration threatens to overwhelm their hope.

What lies behind this emerging national sense of frustration can be described as both a dimming of personal expectations and the fear of losing a shared vision for America.

On the personal level the student, the parent, and the caring teacher all perceive that a basic promise is not being kept. More and more young people emerge from high school ready neither for college nor for work. This predicament becomes more acute as the knowledge base continues its rapid expansion, the number of traditional jobs shrinks, and new jobs demand greater sophistication and preparation.

On a broader scale, we sense that this undertone of frustration has significant political implications, for it cuts across ages, generations, races, and political and economic groups. We have come to understand that the public will demand that educational and political leaders act forcefully and effectively on these issues. Indeed, such demands have already appeared and could well become a unifying national preoccupation. This unity, however, can be achieved only if we avoid the unproductive tendency of some to search for scapegoats among the victims, such as the beleaguered teachers.

On the positive side is the significant movement by political and educational leaders to search for solutions--so far centering largely on the nearly desperate need for increased support for the teaching of mathematics and science. This movement is but a start on what we believe is a larger and more educationally encompassing need to improve teaching and learning in fields such as English, history, geography, economics, and foreign languages. We believe this movement must be broadened and directed toward reform and excellence throughout education.

## **Excellence in Education**

We define "excellence" to mean several related things. At the level of the *individual learner*, it means performing on the boundary of individual ability in ways that test and push back personal limits, in school and in the workplace. Excellence characterizes a *school or college* that sets high expectations and goals for all learners, then tries in every way possible to help students reach them. Excellence characterizes a *society* that has adopted these policies, for it will then be prepared through the education and skill of its people to respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing world. Our Nation's people and its schools and colleges must be committed to achieving excellence in all these senses.

We do not believe that a public commitment to excellence and educational reform must be made at the expense of a strong public commitment to the equitable treatment of our diverse population. The twin goals of equity and high-quality schooling have profound and practical meaning for our economy and society, and we cannot permit one to yield to the other either in principle or in practice. To do so would deny young people their chance to learn and live according to their aspirations and abilities. It also would lead to a generalized accommodation to mediocrity in our society on the one hand or the creation of an undemocratic elitism on the other.

Our goal must be to develop the talents of all to their fullest. Attaining that goal requires that we expect and assist all students to work to the limits of their capabilities. We should expect schools to have genuinely high standards rather than minimum ones, and parents to support and encourage their children to make the most of their talents and abilities.

The search for solutions to our educational problems must also include a commitment to life-long learning. The task of rebuilding our system of learning is enormous and must be properly understood and taken seriously: Although a million and a half new workers enter the economy each year from our schools and colleges, the adults working today will still make up about 75 percent of the workforce in the year 2000. These workers, and new entrants into the workforce, will need further education and retraining if they--and we as a Nation--are to thrive and prosper.

## **The Learning Society**

In a world of ever-accelerating competition and change in the conditions of the workplace, of ever-greater danger, and of ever-larger opportunities for those prepared to meet them, educational reform should focus on the goal of creating a Learning Society. At the heart of such a society is the commitment to a set of values and to a system of education that affords all members the opportunity to stretch their minds to full capacity, from early childhood through adulthood, learning more as the world itself changes. Such a society has as a basic foundation the idea that education is important not only because of what it contributes to one's career goals but also because of the value it adds to the general quality of one's life. Also at the heart of the Learning Society

are educational opportunities extending far beyond the traditional institutions of learning, our schools and colleges. They extend into homes and workplaces; into libraries, art galleries, museums, and science centers; indeed, into every place where the individual can develop and mature in work and life. In our view, formal schooling in youth is the essential foundation for learning throughout one's life. But without life-long learning, one's skills will become rapidly dated.

In contrast to the ideal of the Learning Society, however, we find that for too many people education means doing the minimum work necessary for the moment, then coasting through life on what may have been learned in its first quarter. But this should not surprise us because we tend to express our educational standards and expectations largely in terms of "minimum requirements." And where there should be a coherent continuum of learning, we have none, but instead an often incoherent, outdated patchwork quilt. Many individual, sometimes heroic, examples of schools and colleges of great merit do exist. Our findings and testimony confirm the vitality of a number of notable schools and programs, but their very distinction stands out against a vast mass shaped by tensions and pressures that inhibit systematic academic and vocational achievement for the majority of students. In some metropolitan areas basic literacy has become the goal rather than the starting point. In some colleges maintaining enrollments is of greater day-to-day concern than maintaining rigorous academic standards. And the ideal of academic excellence as the primary goal of schooling seems to be fading across the board in American education.

Thus, we issue this call to all who care about America and its future: to parents and students; to teachers, administrators, and school board members; to colleges and industry; to union members and military leaders; to governors and State legislators; to the President; to members of Congress and other public officials; to members of learned and scientific societies; to the print and electronic media; to concerned citizens everywhere. America is at risk.

We are confident that America can address this risk. If the tasks we set forth are initiated now and our recommendations are fully realized over the next several years, we can expect reform of our Nation's schools, colleges, and universities. This would also reverse the current declining trend--a trend that stems more from weakness of purpose, confusion of vision, underuse of talent, and lack of leadership, than from conditions beyond our control.

## **The Tools at Hand**

It is our conviction that the essential raw materials needed to reform our educational system are waiting to be mobilized through effective leadership:

- the natural abilities of the young that cry out to be developed and the undiminished concern of parents for the well-being of their children;
- the commitment of the Nation to high retention rates in schools and colleges and to full access to education for all;

- the persistent and authentic American dream that superior performance can raise one's state in life and shape one's own future;
- the dedication, against all odds, that keeps teachers serving in schools and colleges, even as the rewards diminish;
- our better understanding of learning and teaching and the implications of this knowledge for school practice, and the numerous examples of local success as a result of superior effort and effective dissemination;
- the ingenuity of our policymakers, scientists, State and local educators, and scholars in formulating solutions once problems are better understood;
- the traditional belief that paying for education is an investment in ever-renewable human resources that are more durable and flexible than capital plant and equipment, and the availability in this country of sufficient financial means to invest in education;
- the equally sound tradition, from the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 until today, that the Federal Government should supplement State, local, and other resources to foster key national educational goals; and
- the voluntary efforts of individuals, businesses, and parent and civic groups to cooperate in strengthening educational programs.

These raw materials, combined with the unparalleled array of educational organizations in America, offer us the possibility to create a Learning Society, in which public, private, and parochial schools; colleges and universities; vocational and technical schools and institutes; libraries; science centers, museums, and other cultural institutions; and corporate training and retraining programs offer opportunities and choices for all to learn throughout life.

### **The Public's Commitment**

Of all the tools at hand, the public's support for education is the most powerful. In a message to a National Academy of Sciences meeting in May 1982, President Reagan commented on this fact when he said:

This public awareness--and I hope public action--is long overdue.... This country was built on American respect for education. . . Our challenge now is to create a resurgence of that thirst for education that typifies our Nation's history.

The most recent (1982) Gallup Poll of the *Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools* strongly supported a theme heard during our hearings: People are steadfast in their belief that education is the major foundation for the future strength of this country. They even considered education more important than developing the best industrial system or the strongest military force, perhaps because they understood education as the cornerstone of both. They also held that education is "extremely important" to one's future success, and that public education should be the top priority for additional Federal funds. Education occupied first place among 12 funding categories considered in the survey--above health care, welfare, and military defense, with 55 percent selecting public education as one of their first three choices. Very clearly, the public understands the primary importance of education as the foundation for a satisfying life, an enlightened and civil society, a strong economy, and a secure Nation.



At the same time, the public has no patience with undemanding and superfluous high school offerings. In another survey, more than 75 percent of all those questioned believed every student planning to go to college should take 4 years of mathematics, English, history/U.S. government, and science, with more than 50 percent adding 2 years each of a foreign language and economics or business. The public even supports requiring much of this curriculum for students who do not plan to go to college. These standards far exceed the strictest high school graduation requirements of any State today, and they also exceed the admission standards of all but a handful of our most selective colleges and universities.

Another dimension of the public's support offers the prospect of constructive reform. The best term to characterize it may simply be the honorable word "patriotism." Citizens know intuitively what some of the best economists have shown in their research, that education is one of the chief engines of a society's material well-being. They know, too, that education is the common bond of a pluralistic society and helps tie us to other cultures around the globe. Citizens also know in their bones that the safety of the United States depends principally on the wit, skill, and spirit of a self-confident people, today and tomorrow. It is, therefore, essential--especially in a period of long-term decline in educational achievement--for government at all levels to affirm its responsibility for nurturing the Nation's intellectual capital.

And perhaps most important, citizens know and believe that the meaning of America to the rest of the world must be something better than it seems to many today. Americans like to think of this Nation as the preeminent country for generating the great ideas and material benefits for all mankind. The citizen is dismayed at a steady 15-year decline in industrial productivity, as one great American industry after another falls to world competition. The citizen wants the country to act on the belief, expressed in our hearings and by the large majority in the Gallup Poll, that education should be at the top of the Nation's agenda.

## **Findings**

We conclude that declines in educational performance are in large part the result of disturbing inadequacies in the way the educational process itself is often conducted. The findings that follow, culled from a much more extensive list, reflect four important aspects of the educational process: [content](#), [expectations](#), [time](#), and [teaching](#).

### **Findings Regarding Content**

By content we mean the very "stuff" of education, the curriculum. Because of our concern about the curriculum, the Commission examined patterns of courses high school students took in 1964-69 compared with course patterns in 1976-81. On the basis of these analyses we conclude:

- Secondary school curricula have been homogenized, diluted, and diffused to the point that they no longer have a central purpose. In effect, we have a cafeteria

style curriculum in which the appetizers and desserts can easily be mistaken for the main courses. Students have migrated from vocational and college preparatory programs to "general track" courses in large numbers. The proportion of students taking a general program of study has increased from 12 percent in 1964 to 42 percent in 1979.

- This curricular smorgasbord, combined with extensive student choice, explains a great deal about where we find ourselves today. We offer intermediate algebra, but only 31 percent of our recent high school graduates complete it; we offer French I, but only 13 percent complete it; and we offer geography, but only 16 percent complete it. Calculus is available in schools enrolling about 60 percent of all students, but only 6 percent of all students complete it.
- Twenty-five percent of the credits earned by general track high school students are in physical and health education, work experience outside the school, remedial English and mathematics, and personal service and development courses, such as training for adulthood and marriage.

### **Findings Regarding Expectations**

We define expectations in terms of the level of knowledge, abilities, and skills school and college graduates should possess. They also refer to the time, hard work, behavior, self-discipline, and motivation that are essential for high student achievement. Such expectations are expressed to students in several different ways:

- by grades, which reflect the degree to which students demonstrate their mastery of subject matter;
- through high school and college graduation requirements, which tell students which subjects are most important;
- by the presence or absence of rigorous examinations requiring students to demonstrate their mastery of content and skill before receiving a diploma or a degree;
- by college admissions requirements, which reinforce high school standards; and
- by the difficulty of the subject matter students confront in their texts and assigned readings.

Our analyses in each of these areas indicate notable deficiencies:

- The amount of homework for high school seniors has decreased (two-thirds report less than 1 hour a night) and grades have risen as average student achievement has been declining.
- In many other industrialized nations, courses in mathematics (other than arithmetic or general mathematics), biology, chemistry, physics, and geography start in grade 6 and are required of *all* students. The time spent on these subjects, based on class hours, is about three times that spent by even the most science-oriented U.S. students, i.e., those who select 4 years of science and mathematics in secondary school.

- A 1980 State-by-State survey of high school diploma requirements reveals that only eight States require high schools to offer foreign language instruction, but none requires students to take the courses. Thirty-five States require only 1 year of mathematics, and 36 require only 1 year of science for a diploma.
- In 13 States, 50 percent or more of the units required for high school graduation may be electives chosen by the student. Given this freedom to choose the substance of half or more of their education, many students opt for less demanding personal service courses, such as bachelor living.
- "Minimum competency" examinations (now required in 37 States) fall short of what is needed, as the "minimum" tends to become the "maximum," thus lowering educational standards for all.
- One-fifth of all 4-year public colleges in the United States must accept every high school graduate within the State regardless of program followed or grades, thereby serving notice to high school students that they can expect to attend college even if they do not follow a demanding course of study in high school or perform well.
- About 23 percent of our more selective colleges and universities reported that their general level of selectivity declined during the 1970s, and 29 percent reported reducing the number of specific high school courses required for admission (usually by dropping foreign language requirements, which are now specified as a condition for admission by only one-fifth of our institutions of higher education).
- Too few experienced teachers and scholars are involved in writing textbooks. During the past decade or so a large number of texts have been "written down" by their publishers to ever-lower reading levels in response to perceived market demands.
- A recent study by Education Products Information Exchange revealed that a majority of students were able to master 80 percent of the material in some of their subject-matter texts before they had even opened the books. Many books do not challenge the students to whom they are assigned.
- Expenditures for textbooks and other instructional materials have declined by 50 percent over the past 17 years. While some recommend a level of spending on texts of between 5 and 10 percent of the operating costs of schools, the budgets for basal texts and related materials have been dropping during the past decade and a half to only 0.7 percent today.

## **Findings Regarding Time**

Evidence presented to the Commission demonstrates three disturbing facts about the use that American schools and students make of time: (1) compared to other nations, American students spend much less time on school work; (2) time spent in the classroom and on homework is often used ineffectively; and (3) schools are not doing enough to help students develop either the study skills required to use time well or the willingness to spend more time on school work.

- In England and other industrialized countries, it is not unusual for academic high school students to spend 8 hours a day at school, 220 days per year. In the United States, by contrast, the typical school day lasts 6 hours and the school year is 180 days.
- In many schools, the time spent learning how to cook and drive counts as much toward a high school diploma as the time spent studying mathematics, English, chemistry, U.S. history, or biology.
- A study of the school week in the United States found that some schools provided students only 17 hours of academic instruction during the week, and the average school provided about 22.
- A California study of individual classrooms found that because of poor management of classroom time, some elementary students received only one-fifth of the instruction others received in reading comprehension.
- In most schools, the teaching of study skills is haphazard and unplanned. Consequently, many students complete high school and enter college without disciplined and systematic study habits.

## **Findings Regarding Teaching**

The Commission found that not enough of the academically able students are being attracted to teaching; that teacher preparation programs need substantial improvement; that the professional working life of teachers is on the whole unacceptable; and that a serious shortage of teachers exists in key fields.

- Too many teachers are being drawn from the bottom quarter of graduating high school and college students.
- The teacher preparation curriculum is weighted heavily with courses in "educational methods" at the expense of courses in subjects to be taught. A survey of 1,350 institutions training teachers indicated that 41 percent of the time of elementary school teacher candidates is spent in education courses, which reduces the amount of time available for subject matter courses.
- The average salary after 12 years of teaching is only \$17,000 per year, and many teachers are required to supplement their income with part-time and summer employment. In addition, individual teachers have little influence in such critical professional decisions as, for example, textbook selection.
- Despite widespread publicity about an overpopulation of teachers, severe shortages of certain kinds of teachers exist: in the fields of mathematics, science, and foreign languages; and among specialists in education for gifted and talented, language minority, and handicapped students.
- The shortage of teachers in mathematics and science is particularly severe. A 1981 survey of 45 States revealed shortages of mathematics teachers in 43 States, critical shortages of earth sciences teachers in 33 States, and of physics teachers everywhere.
- Half of the newly employed mathematics, science, and English teachers are not qualified to teach these subjects; fewer than one-third of U. S. high schools offer physics taught by qualified teachers.

## Findings

We conclude that declines in educational performance are in large part the result of disturbing inadequacies in the way the educational process itself is often conducted. The findings that follow, culled from a much more extensive list, reflect four important aspects of the educational process: [content](#), [expectations](#), [time](#), and [teaching](#).

### Findings Regarding Content

By content we mean the very "stuff" of education, the curriculum. Because of our concern about the curriculum, the Commission examined patterns of courses high school students took in 1964-69 compared with course patterns in 1976-81. On the basis of these analyses we conclude:

- Secondary school curricula have been homogenized, diluted, and diffused to the point that they no longer have a central purpose. In effect, we have a cafeteria style curriculum in which the appetizers and desserts can easily be mistaken for the main courses. Students have migrated from vocational and college preparatory programs to "general track" courses in large numbers. The proportion of students taking a general program of study has increased from 12 percent in 1964 to 42 percent in 1979.
- This curricular smorgasbord, combined with extensive student choice, explains a great deal about where we find ourselves today. We offer intermediate algebra, but only 31 percent of our recent high school graduates complete it; we offer French I, but only 13 percent complete it; and we offer geography, but only 16 percent complete it. Calculus is available in schools enrolling about 60 percent of all students, but only 6 percent of all students complete it.
- Twenty-five percent of the credits earned by general track high school students are in physical and health education, work experience outside the school, remedial English and mathematics, and personal service and development courses, such as training for adulthood and marriage.

### Findings Regarding Expectations

We define expectations in terms of the level of knowledge, abilities, and skills school and college graduates should possess. They also refer to the time, hard work, behavior, self-discipline, and motivation that are essential for high student achievement. Such expectations are expressed to students in several different ways:

- by grades, which reflect the degree to which students demonstrate their mastery of subject matter;
- through high school and college graduation requirements, which tell students which subjects are most important;
- by the presence or absence of rigorous examinations requiring students to demonstrate their mastery of content and skill before receiving a diploma or a degree;

- by college admissions requirements, which reinforce high school standards; and
- by the difficulty of the subject matter students confront in their texts and assigned readings.

Our analyses in each of these areas indicate notable deficiencies:

- The amount of homework for high school seniors has decreased (two-thirds report less than 1 hour a night) and grades have risen as average student achievement has been declining.
- In many other industrialized nations, courses in mathematics (other than arithmetic or general mathematics), biology, chemistry, physics, and geography start in grade 6 and are required of *all* students. The time spent on these subjects, based on class hours, is about three times that spent by even the most science-oriented U.S. students, i.e., those who select 4 years of science and mathematics in secondary school.
- A 1980 State-by-State survey of high school diploma requirements reveals that only eight States require high schools to offer foreign language instruction, but none requires students to take the courses. Thirty-five States require only 1 year of mathematics, and 36 require only 1 year of science for a diploma.
- In 13 States, 50 percent or more of the units required for high school graduation may be electives chosen by the student. Given this freedom to choose the substance of half or more of their education, many students opt for less demanding personal service courses, such as bachelor living.
- "Minimum competency" examinations (now required in 37 States) fall short of what is needed, as the "minimum" tends to become the "maximum," thus lowering educational standards for all.
- One-fifth of all 4-year public colleges in the United States must accept every high school graduate within the State regardless of program followed or grades, thereby serving notice to high school students that they can expect to attend college even if they do not follow a demanding course of study in high school or perform well.
- About 23 percent of our more selective colleges and universities reported that their general level of selectivity declined during the 1970s, and 29 percent reported reducing the number of specific high school courses required for admission (usually by dropping foreign language requirements, which are now specified as a condition for admission by only one-fifth of our institutions of higher education).
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- Despite widespread publicity about an overpopulation of teachers, severe shortages of certain kinds of teachers exist: in the fields of mathematics, science, and foreign languages; and among specialists in education for gifted and talented, language minority, and handicapped students.
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## **Appendix A: Charter--National Commission on Excellence in Education**

### **Authority**

20 U.S.C. 1233a. The Commission is governed by the provisions of Part D of the General Education Provisions Act (P.L. 90-247 as amended; 20 U.S.C. 1233 *et seq.*) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C Appendix I) which set forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

### **Purpose and Functions**

The Commission advises and makes recommendations to the nation and to the Secretary of Education. To carry out this mission the Commission is charged with the following responsibilities:

1. To review and synthesize the data and scholarly literature on the quality of learning and teaching in the nation's schools, colleges, and universities, both public and private, with special concern for the educational experience of teenage youth;
2. To examine and to compare and contrast the curricula, standards, and expectations of the educational systems of several advanced countries with those of the United States;
3. To study a representative sampling of university and college admission standards and lower division course requirements with particular reference to the impact upon the enhancement of quality and the promotion of excellence such standards may have on high school curricula and on expected levels of high school academic achievement;
4. To review and to describe educational programs that are recognized as preparing students who consistently attain higher than average scores in college entrance examinations and who meet with uncommon success the demands placed on them by the nation's colleges and universities;
5. To review the major changes that have occurred in American education as well as events in society during the past quarter century that have significantly affected educational achievement;
6. To hold hearings and to receive testimony and expert advice on efforts that could and should be taken to foster higher levels of quality and academic excellence in the nation's schools, colleges, and universities;
7. To do all other things needed to define the problems of and the barriers to attaining greater levels of excellence in American education; and
8. To report and to make practical recommendations for action to be taken by educators, public officials, governing boards, parents, and others having a vital interest in American education and a capacity to influence it for the better.

## **Structure**

The Commission consists of at least 12, but not more than 19, public members appointed by the Secretary. The Secretary shall designate a chairperson from among the members. Among its members the Commission includes persons who are knowledgeable about educational programs at various levels and are familiar with views of the public, of employers, of educators, and of leaders of a range of professions regarding the status of education today, requirements for the future, and ways the quality of education for all Americans can be improved.

A quorum of the Commission is a majority of appointed members.

Terms of service of members end with the termination of the Commission.

Hearings on behalf of the Commission may be held by one or more members with the authorization of the chairperson.

The Commission may establish standing committees composed exclusively of its members. Each standing committee complies with the requirements of applicable statutes and Departmental regulations. Each committee presents to the Commission findings and recommendations for action by the full Commission. Timely notification of the establishment of a committee and any change therein, including its charge, membership, and frequency of meetings, will be made in writing to the Committee Management Officer. All committees act under the policies established by the Commission as a whole.

Management and staff services are provided by the Executive Director who serves as the Designated Federal Official to the Commission and by the National Institute of Education.

## **Meetings**

The Commission meets approximately four times a year at the call of the Chairperson, with the advance approval of the Secretary or the Designated Federal Official who approves the agenda and is present or represented at all meetings. Standing committees meet as required at the call of their Chairperson with the concurrence of the Commission Chairperson. All meetings are open to the public except as determined otherwise by the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement. Notice of all meetings shall be given to the public. Meetings are conducted, and records of proceedings kept, in accordance with applicable laws and Department regulations.

## **Compensation**

In accordance with the General Education Provisions Act and other applicable laws, Commission members shall be entitled to an honorarium of \$100 per day for official

business of the Commission. Their per diem and travel expenses will be paid in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations.

### **Annual Cost Estimate**

Estimate of the direct cost for operating the Commission, including compensation and travel expenses for members as well as costs for studies, but excluding staff support, is \$332,000. Estimate of annual person-years of staff required is 16. Estimate of direct annual costs for administrative support, staff and staff per diem and travel expenses is \$453,000. The National Institute of Education will provide additional administrative and research assistance to the Commission.

### **Reports**

In addition to its final report, which is expected eighteen months from the initial meeting, the Commission submits to the Congress by March 31 of each year an annual report which contains as a minimum a list of the names and business addresses of the members, a list of the dates and places of the meetings, the functions of the Commission, and a summary of Commission activities and recommendations made during the year. Such report is transmitted with the Secretary's annual report to Congress. The Commission makes such other reports or recommendations as may be appropriate. A copy of the annual report and other reports is provided to the Committee Management Officer.

### **Termination Date**

It is estimated that the time necessary for the Commission to complete its activities and report is at least 18 months. Therefore, to insure the completion of the report, the Secretary determines that this Commission terminates not later than two years from the date of this Charter.

APPROVED:

August 5, 1981

*T.H. Bell*, Secretary of Education

## Appendix B: Schedule of the Commission's Public Events

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*In addition to these public events, the Commission members also attended a number of subcommittee meetings and worksessions over the course of 18 months.*

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**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Dates:** October 9-10, 1981

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Date:** December 7, 1981

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Date:** February 25, 1982

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

**Event:** Hearing--Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education

**Date:** March 11, 1982

**Place:** Stanford University, Stanford, California

**Hosts:** *Donald Kennedy*, President, Stanford University; and *J. Myron Atkin*, Dean, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University

**Event:** Hearing--Language and Literacy: Skills for Academic Learning

**Date:** April 16, 1982

**Place:** Houston Independent School District, Houston, Texas

**Hosts:** *Raymon Bynum*, Texas State Commissioner of Education; and *Billy R. Reagan*, General Superintendent, Houston Independent School District

**Event:** Panel Discussion--Performance Expectations in American Education

**Date:** April 30, 1982

**Place:** The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Host:** *Thomas Erlich*, Provost, The University of Pennsylvania

**Event:** Hearing--Teaching and Teacher Education

**Date:** May 12, 1982

**Place:** Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia

**Hosts:** *Alonzo Crim*, Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools; *Sherman Day*, Dean, School of Education, Georgia State University; and *Barbara Hatton*, Dean, School of Education, Atlanta University

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Date:** May 25, 1982

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

**Event:** Hearing--College Admissions and the Transition to Postsecondary Education

**Date:** June 23, 1982

**Place:** Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois

**Hosts:** *Rolf Weil*, President, Roosevelt University; and *John Corbally*, President, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago

**Event:** Symposium--The Student's Role in Learning

**Date:** July 30, 1982

**Place:** San Diego State University, California

**Hosts:** *Thomas Day*, President, San Diego State University; and *Richard Atkinson*, Chancellor, University of California, San Diego

**Event:** Panel Discussion--College Curriculum: Shape, Influence, and Assessment

**Date:** August 27, 1982

**Place:** University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island

**Host:** *Frank Newman*, President, University of Rhode Island

**Event:** Hearing--Education for a Productive Role in a Productive Society

**Date:** September 16, 1982

**Place:** St. Cajetan's Center, Denver, Colorado

**Host:** *Robert Andringa*, Executive Director, Education Commission of the States, Denver

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Dates:** September 28-29, 1982

**Place:** New York, New York

**Host:** *Robert Payton*, President, Exxon Education Foundation, Exxon Corporation, New York, New York

**Event:** Hearing--Education for the Gifted and Talented

**Date:** October 15, 1982

**Place:** Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts

**Hosts:** *Derek Bok*, President, Harvard University; and *Patricia Albjerg Graham*, Dean, Harvard Graduate School of Education

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Dates:** November 15-16, 1982

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Dates:** January 21-22, 1983

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

**Event:** Full Commission Meeting

**Dates:** April 26, 1983

**Place:** Washington, D.C.

## Appendix C: Commissioned Papers

- Joseph Adelson, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
"Twenty-Five years of American Education: An Interpretation"
- Catherine P. Ailes and Francis W. Rushing, SRI International, Arlington, Virginia  
"A Summary Report on the Educational Systems of the United States and the Soviet Union: Comparative Analysis"
- Alexander W. Astin, University of California, Los Angeles  
"Excellence and Equity in American Education"
- Alexander W. Astin, University of California, Los Angeles  
"The American Freshman, 1966-1981: Some Implications for Educational Policy and Practice"
- Herman Blake, University of California, Santa Cruz  
"Demographic Change and Curriculum: New Students in Higher Education"
- Richard I. Brod, The Modern Language Association, New York, New York
- Nicholas Farnham, The International Council on the Future of the University, New York, New York
- William V. Mayer, Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, Boulder, Colorado
- Robert A. McCaughey, Barnard College, New York, New York  
"University Entrance Examinations and Performance Expectations"
- Barbara B. Burn and Christopher H. Hurn, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
"An Analytic Comparison of Educational Systems"
- Philip Cusick, Michigan State University, East Lansing  
"Secondary Public Schools in America"
- Paul DeHart Hurd, Stanford University, California  
"An Overview of Science Education in the United States and Selected Foreign Countries"
- Walter Doyle, University of Texas at Austin  
"Academic Work"
- Kenneth Duckworth, University of Oregon, Eugene  
"Some Ideas About Student Cognition, Motivation and Work" (A Critique of the Symposium on *The Student's Role in Learning*)
- Max A. Eckstein, Queens College/City of New York Flushing
- Susanne Shafer, Arizona State University, Tempe
- Kenneth Travers, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana  
"A Comparative Review of Curriculum: Mathematics and International Studies in the Secondary Schools of Five Countries"
- Eleanor Farrar, The Huron Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Matthew B. Miles, Center for Policy Research, New York, New York
- Barbara Neufeld, The Huron Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
"A Review of Effective Schools Research: Implications for Practice and Research"
- Zelda Gamson, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
"A Little Light on the Subject: Keeping General and Liberal Education Alive"
- William E. Gardner, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- John R. Palmer, University of Wisconsin, Madison

"Certification and Accreditation: Background, Issue Analysis, and Recommendations"

Thomas L. Good, University of Missouri-Columbia

"What Is Learned in Schools: Responding to School Demands, Grades K-6"

Thomas L. Good and Gail M. Hinkel, University of Missouri-Columbia

"Schooling in America: Some Descriptive and Explanatory Statements"

Donald B. Holsinger, State University of New York, Albany

"Time, Content and Expectations as Predictors of School Achievement in the U.S.A. and Other Developed Countries: A Review of IEA Evidence"

Kenneth R. Howey, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

"Charting Directions for Preservice Teacher Education"

Torsten Husen, University of Stockholm, Sweden

"A Cross-National Perspective on Assessing the Quality of Learning"

Nancy Karweit, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

"Time on Task: A Research Review"

Howard London, Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts

"Academic Standards in the American Community College: Trends and Controversies"

Martin L. Maehr, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

"Motivational Factors in School Achievement"

Matthew B. Miles, Center for Policy Research, New York, New York

Eleanor Farrar and Barbara Neufeld, The Huron Institute Cambridge, Massachusetts

"The Extent of Adoption of Effective Schools Programs"

Barbara Neufeld and Eleanor Farrar, The Huron Institute Cambridge, Massachusetts

Matthew B. Miles, Center for Policy Research, New York, New York

"A Review of Effective Schools Research: The Message for Secondary Schools"

William Neumann, Syracuse University, New York

"College Press and Student Fit"

C. Robert Pace, University of California, Los Angeles

"Achievement and Quality of Student Effort"

Harvey L. Prokop, San Diego Unified School District California

"Intelligence, Motivation and the Quantity and Quality of Academic Work and Their Impacts on the Learning of Students: A Practitioner's Reaction" (A Critique of the Symposium on *The Student's Role in Learning*)

Lauren B. Resnick, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Daniel P. Resnick, Carnegie-Mellon University Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"Standards, Curriculum, and Performance: An Historical and Comparative Perspective"

Frederick Rudolph, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts

"Educational Excellence--The Secondary School-College Connection and Other Matters: An Historical Assessment"

Clifford Sjogren, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

"College Admissions and the Transition to Postsecondary Education: Standards and Practices"

Richard E. Snow, Stanford University, California

"Intelligence, Motivation and Academic Work" (A Critique of the Symposium on *The Student's Role in Learning*)

Robert J. Sternberg and Richard Wagner, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

"Understanding Intelligence: What's in It for Educators?"

Deborah Stipek, University of California, Los Angeles

"Motivating Students to Learn: A Lifelong Perspective"

Judith Torney-Purta, University of Maryland, College Park

John Schwille, Michigan State University, East Lansing

"The Values Learned in School: Policy and Practice in Industrialized Countries"

Beatrice Ward, John R. Mergendoller, and Alexis L. Mitman, Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development, San Francisco, California

"The Years Between Elementary School and High School: What Schooling Experiences Do Students Have?"

Jonathan Warren, Educational Testing Service, Berkeley, California

"The Faculty Role in Educational Excellence"

Dean K. Whitla, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

"Value Added and Other Related Matters"

Sam J. Yarger, Syracuse University, New York

"Inservice Education"

Herbert Zimiles, Bank Street College of Education, New York, New York

"The Changing American Child: The Perspective of Educators"

*Commissioned papers will be available in the ERIC system after July 1983 (See [Ordering Information](#)).*

**Also available through the ERIC system after July 1983:**

Clifford Adelman, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C.

"A Study of High School Transcripts, 1964-1981"

**Available through the ERIC system after August 1983:**

Fast Response Survey System, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, D.C.

"School District Survey of Academic Requirements and Achievement"

Fast Response Survey System, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, D.C.

"Survey of Schools of Teacher Education: Perceptions of Methods for Improvement"

Service Delivery Assessment, Office of Management, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

"Study Skills Instruction"



## Appendix D: Hearing Testimony

### Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education

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*Without a deep, sturdy science and technology foundation, U.S. needs cannot be satisfied. The base of the foundation is education in science and mathematics from grade school through high school. But the evidence is all about us of our recent neglect and the strong possibility of a further downgrading of the national importance of such education.*

Simon Ramo  
Redondo Beach, California

the TRW-Fujitsu Company

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*H. Guyford Stever*, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.  
*Bernard M. Oliver*, Hewlett-Packard Company, Palo Alto, California  
*Henry L. Alder*, University of California, Davis, representing the Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
*Sarah E. Klein*, Roton Middle School, Norwalk, Connecticut, representing the National Science Teachers Association  
*Harold D. Taylor*, Hillsdale High School, San Mateo, California, representing the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

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*John Martin*, Palo Alto Unified School District, California  
*Ruth Willis*, Hamilton Junior High School, Oakland, California  
*Sarn Dederian*, San Francisco Unified School District, California  
*Leroy Finkel*, San Mateo County Office of Education, California  
*Olivia Martinez*, San Jose Unified School District, California  
*Robert Bell*, General Electric Company, San Jose, California  
*Judith Hubner*, representing the Governor's Office, State of California  
*Robert W Walker*, De Anza-Foothill Community College District, California  
*Nancy Kreinberg*, Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, California  
*Robert Finnell*, Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, California  
*Marian E. Koshland*, University of California, Berkeley, representing the National Science Board  
*Alan M. Portis*, University of California, Berkeley, representing the Education Committee of the American Physical Society  
*Leon Henkin*, University of California, Berkeley, representing the U.S. Commission on Mathematical Instruction  
*John Pawson*, Edison High School, Huntington Beach, California  
*Alan Fibish*, Lowell High School, San Francisco, California  
*Juliet R. Henry*, representing the California Teachers Association  
*Jess Bravin*, Board of Education, Los Angeles, California

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*Frank Oppenheimer*, Exploratorium, San Francisco, California  
*Leigh Burstein*, University of California, Los Angeles

*Judy Chamberlain*, Cupertino Unified School District, California  
*Michael Summerville*, Fremont Unified High School District, California  
*Ted Perry*, San Juan Unified School District, California  
*Paul DeHart Hurd*, Stanford University, California  
*Elizabeth Karplus*, Campolindo High School, Moraga, California  
*Louis Fein*, Palo Alto Learners Association, California  
*Bob McFarland*, representing the California Math Council  
*Katherine Burt*, Cupertino Elementary School District, California  
*Leo Ruth*, California Engineering Foundation

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*Gordon M. Ambach*, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
*James L. Casey*, State Department of Education, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
*Carolyn Graham*, Jefferson Elementary School, Burbank, California  
*Marcy Holteen*, Ambler, Pennsylvania  
*Howard C. Mel and Kay Fairwell*, Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley, California  
*Jean Phillips*, Thousand Oaks, California  
*Simon Ramo*, the TRW-Fujitsu Company, Redondo Beach, California  
*Gerhardt W. Reidel*, University of West Los Angeles, Culver City, California  
*Carl L. Riehm*, Virginia State Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia  
*John H. Saxon*, Norman, Oklahoma  
*Thomas O. Sidebottom*, Interactive Sciences, Inc., Palo Alto, California  
*Karl Weiss*, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Jan West*, Oroville, California

### **Related Activities in the Bay Area**

#### **Site Visit**

Lawrence Hall of Science  
University of California, Berkeley  
Howard C. Mel, Director

Tour of the Paul and Jean Hanna Collection on the Role of Education and the Archives and Library at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Dinner with business, education, and community leaders

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Western Regional Office, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

### **Language and Literacy: Skills for Academic Learning**

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*Writing as an activity is not honored by the American public in the opinion of the students. They see a surface picture, dominated by television, film, and radio, in which the acts of writing and reading are not viewed as important or even relevant. The cultural heroes are athletes, actresses, actors, politicians and big business tycoons. None seemingly need reading or writing to achieve their stature.*

James Kinneavy

University of Texas, Austin

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*Richard C. Anderson*, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana  
*Margaret Smith-Burke*, New York University, New York  
*Donaid Graves*, University of New Hampshire, Durham  
*Eileen Lundy*, University of Texas, San Antonio  
*Ray Clifford*, Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, California  
*Lity Wong-Fillmore*, University of California, Berkeley

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*Victoria Bergin*, Texas Education Agency, Austin  
*Alan C. Purves*, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana  
*Delia Pompa*, Houston Independent School District, Texas  
*Olivia Munoz*, Houston Independent School District, Texas  
*James Kinneavy*, University of Texas, Austin  
*Betty Von Maszewski*, Deer Park Independent School District, Texas  
*Claire E. Weinstein*, University of Texas, Austin  
*Patricia Sturdivant*, Houston Independent School District, Texas

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*June Dempsey*, University of Houston, Texas, representing the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Western College Reading Association, and the National Association for Remedial and Developmental Studies in Postsecondary Education  
*Jane Porter*, College Board, Austin, Texas  
*Kay Bell*, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, Austin, Texas  
*Judy Walker de Felix*, University of Houston, Texas  
*Barbara Glave*, University of Houston, Texas, representing the Houston Area Teachers of Foreign Language  
*Dora Scott*, Houston Independent School District, Texas, representing the National Education Association and the Texas State Teachers Association, Houston  
*Georgette Sullins*, Spring Independent School District, Texas  
*Renate Donovan*, Spring Branch Independent School District, Texas

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*Gordon M. Ambach*, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
*Jo Bennett* and *Jean Parochetti*, Alvin Community College, Texas  
*Sharon Robinson*, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.  
*Donald L. Rubin*, University of Georgia, Athens, representing the Speech Communication Association  
*Robert N. Schwartz*, University of Houston, Texas  
*Ralph C. Staiger*, International Reading Association, Newark, Delaware  
*Helen Warriner-Burke* and *Carl L. Riehm*, Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia  
*William Work*, Speech Communication Association, Annandale, Virginia  
*Daryl R. Yost*, East Allen County Schools, New Haven, Indiana

### **Related Activities in Houston**

Site visits coordinated by the Office of the General Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District

Briargrove Elementary School  
Wilson Elementary School  
Clifton Middle School  
Bellaire High School  
High School for Engineering Professions  
High School for Health Professions  
High School for Performing and Visual Arts

## Teaching and Teacher Education

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*Realizing aptitudes and performance expectations early in the training program will force the teacher education student to determine if he or she will survive in a profession where effective members are those who believe all students can learn and take the responsibility upon themselves to see that they do.*

Robert Fortenberry

Jackson City Schools, Mississippi

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Gary Sykes, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C.

Gary Fenstermacher, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg

David G. Imig, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Washington, D.C.

Anne Flowers, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro

Barbara Peterson, Seven Oaks Elementary School, Columbia, South Carolina

Eva Galumbos, Southern Regional Education Board, Atlanta, Georgia

Robert Scanlon, Pennsylvania State Department of Education, Harrisburg

Ralph Turlington, Florida State Department of Education, Tallahassee

Gail MacColl, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C.

Kathy Jones, Roan State Community College, Harriman, Tennessee, representing the National Education Association

Mary Lou Romaine, Atlanta Federation of Teachers, Georgia, representing the American Federation of Teachers

Janet Towslee-Collier, Georgia State University, Atlanta, representing the Association of Teacher Educators

Robert Fortenberry, Jackson City Schools, Mississippi, representing the American Association of School Administrators

Nicholas Hobar, West Virginia Department of Education, Charleston, representing the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification

Fred Loveday, Georgia Private Education Council, Smyrna, representing the Council for American Private Education

James Lowden, Alabama Christian Education Association, Prattville, representing the American Association of Christian Schools

J.L. Grant, Florida State University, Tallahassee, representing the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education

Carolyn Huseman, Georgia State Board of Education, representing the National Association of State Boards of Education

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*Robert Fontenot*, University of Southwestern Louisiana, LaFayette  
*Nancy Ramseur*, Camden High School, South Carolina  
*Eugene Kelly*, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.  
*Richard Hodges*, Decatur, Georgia  
*James Gray*, University of California, Berkeley  
*Robert Dixon*, Institute for Research, Development and Engineering in Nuclear Energy,  
Atlanta, Georgia  
*Pat Woodall*, Columbus, Georgia  
*Wayne Wheatley*, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, representing the  
Council for Exceptional Children  
*Joe Hasenstab*, Project Teach, Westwood, New Jersey  
*William Drummond*, University of Florida, Gainesville  
*Debbie Yoho*, Southeastern Regional Teacher Center, Columbia, South Carolina  
*Donald Gallehr*, Virginia Writing Project, Fairfax  
*James Collins*, National Council of States on In-service Education, Syracuse, New York  
*Ann Levy*, Project New Adventure in Learning, Tallahassee, Florida  
*Bill Katzenmeyer*, University of South Florida, Tampa  
*Walt Mika*, Virginia Education Association  
*Eunice Sims*, Georgia Writing Project, Atlanta

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*Gordon M. Ambach*, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
*Elaine Banks* and *Sam Sava*, National Association of Elementary School Principals,  
Reston, Virginia  
*Aladino A. Burchianti*, Masontown, Pennsylvania  
*Roy Edelfelt*, Washington, D.C.  
*Ed Foglia*, California Teachers Association, Burlingame  
*June Johnson*, New Adventure in Learning, Tallahassee, Florida  
*Richard A. Krueger*, Staples Teacher Center, Minnesota  
*Clare Miezio*, Eagle Forum Education Committee, Schaumburg, Illinois  
*Donald L. Rubin*, University of Georgia, Athens, representing the Speech  
Communication Association Committee on Assessment and Testing  
*Daryl R. Yost*, East Allen County Schools, New Haven, Indiana

### **Related Activities in Atlanta**

#### **Site Visits**

Douglas High School

L.W. Butts, Principal

Mays High School

Thomas E. Wood, Jr., Principal

Lunch with local dignitaries hosted by Georgia State University

Dinner with business, education, and community leaders

Coordinated by the Atlanta Partnership of Business and Education

Sponsored by FABRAP Architects, Inc., and the Coca-Cola Company

## College Admissions and the Transition to Postsecondary Education

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*We're in the student learning business, and if we're going to have effectiveness in terms of student learning we've got to have good teachers, and we've got to have sound management.*

Education                      Ralph Turlington                      Florida State Department of  
   Tallahassee

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*Clifford Sjogren*, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
*Ralph McGee*, New Trier Township High School, Winnetka, Illinois  
*Alice Cox*, University of California Systemwide Administration, Berkeley  
*George Stafford*, Prairie View A&M University, Texas  
*Fred Hargadon*, Stanford University, California  
*Margaret MacVicar*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

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*Lois Mazzuca*, National Association of College Admissions Counselors, Rolling Meadows, Illinois  
*Ora McConnor*, Chicago Public Schools, Illinois  
*Theodore Brown*, Hales Franciscan High School, Chicago, Illinois  
*Charles D. O'Connell*, University of Chicago, Illinois  
*Oscar Shabat*, Chicago Community College System, Illinois  
*Arnold Mitchum*, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
*Michael Kean*, Educational Testing Service, Midwestern Regional Office, Evanston, Illinois  
*John B. Vaccaro*, The College Board, Midwestern Regional Office, Evanston, Illinois  
  
*William Kinnison*, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio

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*William J. Pappas*, Northview High School, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
*Carmelo Rodriguez*, ASPIRA of Illinois, Chicago  
*Jeffrey Mallow*, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois  
*Carol Elder*, Local 4100 of American Federation of Teachers, Chicago, Illinois  
*Bettye J. Lewis*, Michigan Alliance of Families  
*Rachel Ralya*, Michigan Alliance of Families  
*Austin Doherty*, Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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*Gordon M. Ambach*, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
*Gordon C. Godbey*, Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education  
*Daryl R. Yost*, East Allen County Schools, New Haven, Indiana

### Related Activities in Chicago

Site Visits  
Standard Oil of Indiana



## Education for a Productive Role in a Productive Society

Debbie Yoho  
Teacher Center  
Southeastern Regional  
Columbia, South Carolina

*Lucretia James*, Storage Technology, Inc., Louisville, Colorado  
*Kathy Collins Smith*, American Institute of Banking, Denver, Colorado  
*Wade Murphree*, Denver Institute of Technology, Colorado  
*Calvin Frazier*, State Department of Education, Denver, Colorado  
*Robert Taylor*, The Ohio State University, Columbus  
*John Peper*, Jefferson County Schools, Lakewood, Colorado  
*Michael A. MacDowell*, Joint Council on Economic Education, New York, New York  
*Larry Brown*, 70001, Inc., Washington, D.C.  
*Robert Stewart*, University of Missouri, Columbia  
*Gordon Dickinson*, Colorado Community College and Vocational Education Board,  
 Sterling  
*Karl Weiss*, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Donald Schwartz*, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

*Patricia Brevik*, Auraria Library and Media Center, Denver, Colorado  
*John Dromgoole*, National Commission on Cooperative Education, Boston, Massachusetts

*Faith Hamre*, Littleton Public Schools, Ohio  
*Vernon Broussard*, National Council on Vocational Education, Culver City, California  
*David Terry*, Utah System of Higher Education, Salt Lake City  
*Georgia Van Adestine*, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan  
*Gordon E. Heaton*, Colorado Education Association, Aurora, Colorado  
*Young Jay Mulkey*, American Institute for Character Education, San Antonio, Texas  
*George P. Rusteika*, Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development, San Francisco, California

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*Gordon M. Ambach*, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
*Donald Clark*, National Association for Industry-Education Cooperation, Buffalo, New York  
*Jacqueline Danzberger*, Youth-Work, Inc., Washington, D.C.  
*Charles Davis*, Education Clinics, Inc., Seattle, Washington  
*Dennis A. Dirksen*, San Diego State University, California  
*Ben Lawrence*, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, Boulder, Colorado  
*Bill Rosser and Jennie Sanchez*, Chicano Education Project, Denver, Colorado  
*Sandra K. Squires*, University of Nebraska, Omaha

### **Related Activities in the Denver Area**

#### Site Visits

Warren Occupational Technology Center, Golden

Byron Tucker, Principal

Mountain Bell Education and Training Center, Lakewood

Fred Wells, Director

Career Education Center, Denver

John Astuno, Principal

Emily Griffith Opportunity School, Denver

Butch Thomas, Principal

Luncheon discussion with Robert Worthington, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, U. S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

Dinner discussion with Willard Wirtz, National Institute for Work and Learning, Washington, D.C., and Henry David, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C.

Dinner with business, education, and community leaders

Sponsored by the Education Commission of the States

Chaired by Calvin Frazier, Commissioner of Education, Colorado

### **Education for the Gifted and Talented**

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*Our greatest resource--and the greatest resource of any nation--is the education of its people.*

Norman Pledger

Colorado AFL-CIO

Denver

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*James J. Gallagher*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
*Marcel Kinsbourne*, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, Waltham, Massachusetts  
*Joseph Renzulli*, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
*David Feldman*, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts

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*William Durden*, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland  
*Connie Steele*, Texas Technical University, Lubbock  
*Isa Kaftal Zimmerman*, Lexington Public Schools, Massachusetts  
*Alexinia Baldwin*, State University of New York, Albany

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*Arthur Pontarelli*, Rhode Island State Department of Education, Providence  
*Armand E. Bastastini, Jr.*, Rhode Island State Legislature, Providence  
*William R. Holland*, Narragansett School District, Rhode Island  
*Melissa Lawton*, Bristol School District, Rhode Island  
*Rachel Christina*, Bristol School District, Rhode Island  
*Catherine Valentino*, North Kingstown School District, Rhode Island  
*Marie Friedel*, National Foundation for Gifted and Creative Children, Providence, Rhode Island  
*Marsha R. Berger*, Rhode Island Federation of Teachers, Providence  
*Sidney Rollins*, Rhode Island College, Providence  
*David Laux*, State Advocates for Gifted Education, Providence, Rhode Island  
*James A. Di Prete*, Coventry High School, Rhode Island  
*Harold Reynolds*, Maine State Department of Education, Augusta  
*June K. Goodman*, Connecticut State Board of Education, Hartford  
*Mary Hunter Wolfe*, Connecticut State Task Force on Gifted and Talented Education, Hartford  
*Paul Regnier*, speaking on behalf of Gordon Ambach, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
*Benson Snyder*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
*June Cox*, Sid Richardson Foundation, Fort Worth, Texas  
*Loretta L. Frissora*, Needham Public Schools, Massachusetts, representing the National Education Association  
*Patricia O'Connell*, Augusta, Maine, representing the Council of State Directors for Programs for the Gifted

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*Virginia Ehrlich*, Astor Program Studies for Gifted, Suffern, New York  
*Gloria Duclos*, University of Southern Maine, Portland  
*Anton Lysy*, Londonderry School District, New Hampshire  
*Rhoda Spear*, New Haven Schools, Connecticut  
*Judith Grunbaum*, Southeastern Massachusetts University, North Dartmouth  
*Vincent Hawes*, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C.  
*Dorothy Moser*, Mortar Board, Inc., Columbus, Ohio  
*Wendy Mareks*, Chelmsford Association for Talented and Gifted, Massachusetts  
*James DeLisle*, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
*Naomi Zymelman*, Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Rockville, Maryland

*Sherry Earle*, Connecticut Association for the Gifted, Danbury  
*C. Grey Austin*, University of Georgia, Athens  
*Sally Reis*, Council for Exceptional Children, Talented and Gifted Division, Reston, Virginia  
*Betty T. Gilson*, Brockton Public Schools, Massachusetts  
*Roberta McHardy*, Louisiana Department of Education, Baton Rouge  
*Felicity Freund*, Gifted Child Society, Oakland, New Jersey  
*Lydia Smith*, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Betsy Buchbinder*, Massachusetts Association for Advancement of Individual Potential, Milton  
*Artemis Kirk*, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts, representing the Association of College and Research Libraries

---

*Elizabeth F. Abbott*, Governor's Program for Gifted and Talented, Gainesville, Florida  
*James Alvino*, Gifted Child Newsletter, Sewell, New Jersey  
*Gordon M. Ambach*, State Education Department, Albany, New York  
Association of San Diego Educators for the Gifted and Talented, California  
*Philip J. Burke* and *Karen A. Verbeke*, University of Maryland, College Park  
*Sheila Brown*, Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln  
California Association for the Gifted, Downey  
*Carolyn M. Callahan*, The Association for the Gifted  
*Anne B. Crabbe*, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
*Roxanne H. Cramer*, American Mensa, Arlington, Virginia  
*Neil Daniel*, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth  
*Sue Ellen Duggan* and *Mary Lou Fernandes*, Lackawanna City School District, New York  
*John F. Feldhusen*, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana *Frank F. Fowle, III*, Clayton, Missouri  
*Joseph Harrington*, College Academy, Stoughton, Massachusetts  
*Anne E. Impellizzeri*, American Association for Gifted Children  
*Betty Johnson*, Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented, Minneapolis  
*Nancy Kalajian*, Sommerville, Massachusetts  
*John Lawson*, Massachusetts Department of Education, Quincy  
*Barbara Lindsey*, Southwest Iowans for Talented and Gifted, Council Bluffs  
*Diane Modest*, Framingham Public Schools, Massachusetts  
*Jack L. Omond*, Office for the Gifted, Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
*Arthur Purcell*, Resource Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.  
*Annette Raphael*, Milton Academy, Massachusetts  
*Susanne Richert*, Educational Improvement Center, Sewell, New Jersey  
*Carl L. Riehm*, Virginia State Department of Education, Richmond  
*Terry Ruby*, Raynham Public Schools, Massachusetts  
*Barbara Moore Schuch*, San Diego City Schools, California  
*Dorothy Sisk*, University of South Florida, Tampa  
*Mercedes Smith*, Gifted Association of Missouri, Springfield  
*Christopher L. Sny*, Janesville Public Schools, Wisconsin  
*Julian C. Stanley*, SMPY, Department of Psychology, Johns Hopkins University,

Baltimore, Maryland

*Jo Thomason and Frederick J. Weintraub*, Council for Exceptional Children, Reston, Virginia

*Jo Anne Welch*, Mississippi Association for the Talented and Gifted

### **Related Activities in the Boston Area**

Site Visits

Buckingham, Brown and Nichols School, Cambridge

Peter Gunness, Headmaster

Brookline High School, Brookline

Robert McCarthy, Headmaster

### **Secretary's Regional Representatives**

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*...within any human group, any ethnic or socio-economic sample, there will be people of high intellectual potential but none of them will realize their potential unless they are also afforded the opportunity to do so.*

Marcel Kinsbourne

Eunice Kennedy

Shriver Center

Waltham, Massachusetts

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The Secretary's Regional Representatives held their own conferences or hearings for educators in their regions in order to provide additional testimony to the Commission. In addition to these events, they also supported the hearings the Commission sponsored in their regions.

Region I, *Wayne Roberts*

Boston, Massachusetts

Forum on Effective Schools, September 16, 1982

Region II, *Lorraine Colville*

New York, New York

Forum on Excellence, October 21, 1982

Region III, *Joseph Ambrosino*

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hearing/Conference on Cooperative Education, October 11, 1982

Region IV, *Ted B. Freeman*

Atlanta, Georgia

Public Meeting on Excellence in Education, October 22, 1982

Region V, *Harold Wright*

Chicago, Illinois

Excellence in Education: Preparation for the Transition to Higher Education, October 6, 1982

Region VI, *Scott Tuxhorn*  
Dallas, Texas  
Public Hearing on Excellence in Education, October 4, 1982

Region VII, *Cynthia A. Harris*  
Kansas City, Missouri  
Rural and Small Schools Excellence, October 26, 1982

Region VIII, *Tom Tancredo*  
Denver, Colorado  
Conference on Excellence in Education, November 12-13, 1982

Region IX, *Eugene Gonzales*  
San Francisco, California  
The Teacher: Key to Excellence in the Classroom, October 18, 1982

Region X, *George Hood*  
Seattle, Washington  
Public Hearing, June 25, 1982, August 27, 1982  
(Hearing Officer: Hyrum M. Smith)

Transcripts of the preceding hearings sponsored by and for the Commission will be available in the ERIC System (See [Ordering Information](#)).

In addition to these hearings sponsored by and for the Commission, Commission members participated in a series of site visits and a public hearing focusing on Excellence in Rural Education. These events took place on April 23-24, 1982, in Kentucky. The hearing was held at the University of Kentucky-Somerset Community College.

## **Appendix E: Other Presentations to the Commission**

*Adrienne Bailey*, The College Board, New York, New York  
*Stephen Bailey*, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
*Irene Bandy*, Ohio Department of Education, Columbus  
*Elias Blake*, Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia  
*Lewis M. Branscomb*, National Science Board, Washington, D.C.  
*David Burnett*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia  
*Lawrence Cremin*, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York  
*James V. Gaddy*, New Rochelle High School, New York  
*John Goodlad*, University of California, Los Angeles  
*Elaine Hairston*, Ohio Board of Regents, Columbus  
*John Hurley*, INA Corporation (Now CIGNA), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*Edward Kelly*, State University of New York at Albany  
*Robert McMillan*, University of Rhode Island, Kingston  
*Edward Pellegrino*, Georgetown Medical Center, Washington, D.C.  
*Francis Roberts*, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.  
*David S. Seeley*, Staten Island, New York  
*John Sprott*, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.  
*Carol Stoel*, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.  
*Abraham Tannenbaum*, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York  
*Harold Tragash*, Xerox Corporation, Stamford, Connecticut

## **Appendix F: Notable Programs**

### **Institutions Which Submitted Profiles of Programs**

With the assistance of a variety of organizations, the Commission conducted four searches for examples of notable programs and promising approaches to specific problems in American education. Our purpose was to understand better how schools, school districts, colleges, and other education organizations were defining and addressing these problems. Where the evidence was convincing, we also sought to learn what made successful programs work in different settings.

The Commission's procedure in these four searches was to solicit original profiles of these programs and approaches, profiles that would answer a number of key questions concerning their purpose, content, organization, impact, and transferability.

Evidence of program success was provided wholly by the institution submitting the profile. The Commission is, thus, in no position to validate these programs or to claim any of them to be "exemplary."

Over 200 schools, school districts, colleges, and other educational organizations responded to our solicitations. They sent in profiles and other descriptions of nearly 300 programs. Due to the specific problems on which we were seeking information (e. g., the transition from secondary to postsecondary education, the use of educational technology, mathematics education, cooperative educational ventures with business and industry), most of the respondents were postsecondary institutions. But many of the profiles submitted by colleges involved programs developed for or with elementary and/or secondary schools and are in operation in many school districts.

For their assistance in the efforts to identify and solicit this information, we are particularly grateful to the American Council on Education, the American Association for Higher Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Academy for Educational Development, the Council on American Private Education, and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

The following document will be available in the ERIC System sometime after July, 1983, (See [Ordering Information](#)):

Clifford Adelman, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C.

Elaine Reuben, Elaine Reuben Associates, Washington, D.C.

"Notable Programs in American Postsecondary Education: Selected Analytical Abstracts"

## **Appendix G: Acknowledgments**

We want to express particular appreciation to the Commission staff which, under the leadership of Executive Director Milton Goldberg, assisted us in our work and helped prepare this report. The staff included:

Betty S. Baten  
Stella Carol Foley  
Peter H. Gerber  
Jarnes Harvey  
Arnetta D. LaGrone  
Alisa M. Longworth  
Mollie Shannahan MacAdarns  
Penny S. McDonald  
Shelia L. Sarn  
Haroldie K. Spriggs  
Tommy M. Tornlinson  
Susan Traidman  
Patricia A. Welch

Others who assisted us at various times throughout the course of our work include: Clifford Adelman, Ned Chalker, Cheryl Chase, Antoine M. Garibaldi, Charlesetta Griffin, Bruce Haslam, Carolyn Johnson, Sharon Jones, Lily A. Kliot, Andrew M. Lebby, Beverly Lindsay, Carolyn Lowe, Irene Lykes, Claude Mayberry, John M. Mays, Brad Mitchell, Jean Narayanan, Lewis Pike, John Ridgway, Joanne Saunders, Ramsay Selden, Gary Sykes, Marilyn A. Tapscott, and Douglas Wright. Also, the Commission owes a considerable debt to Editorial Experts, Inc. and Morgan Burchette Associates, both of Alexandria, Virginia, and in particular to Bruce Boston, Karen Burchette, Lee Mickle, and Ian McNett, for invaluable assistance in designing, editing, and producing this volume.

Finally, we sincerely appreciate the support and cooperation provided by Mary Jean LeTendre, Special Assistant to Secretary Bell; Donald J. Senese, Assistant Secretary, Office of Educational Research and Improvement; and Manuel J. Justiz, Director of the National Institute of Education.

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**Disclaimer:** *This page was accurate at the time of publication in 1983 and is included here as part of the printed book. However, this information is now dated and should not be relied upon.*

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