



# ED REVIEW

January 21, 2000

*...a bi-weekly update on Education Department activities relevant to the Intergovernmental and Corporate community*

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## GOOD NEWS ABOUT EDUCATION

Despite widespread public perception that U.S. schools are failing, a January 7 report issued by the Center on Education Policy and the American Youth Policy Forum concludes there are many positive education trends. Comparing classrooms in the 1980s with classrooms of the mid to late 1990s, the study found that fewer students are dropping out, students are taking more challenging courses, and more students with disabilities are finding their way into mainstream classrooms. Among other findings, the study also highlights gains on the math portion of the SAT, a 14 percent increase in the number of students going onto college between 1983 and 1997, and a drop in the overall school crime rate. However, "The Good News About American Education" acknowledges the need for improvement, particularly in secondary schools. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ctredpol.org/whatsnew.html> or <http://www.aypf.org/whatsnew.htm>.

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## FY 2001 BUDGET PROPOSALS

In addition to the school modernization proposal identified in the previous issue, the Clinton Administration has announced a number of FY 2001 budget initiatives, including (1) \$30 million for high-quality early childhood educators, (2) over \$850 million to support community service, (3) \$2.7 billion over the next five years to accelerate enrollment of uninsured children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), (4) \$120 million to create smaller, safer, and better high schools, and (5) a \$100 million increase in the existing Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative -- to help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety. The formal unveiling of the Administration's FY 2001 budget

is scheduled for February 7. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/PressReleases/WhiteHouse.html>.

Note: Details on the Education Department's major FY 2000 funding opportunities, including four new initiatives -- English Literacy/Civics Education, Elementary School Counseling, Safe School Alternative Strategies, and Small Schools -- are available online at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/FY2000/index.html>.

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## JOB SHADOW DAY

On February 2, working professionals across the country will participate in the third annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Supported by America's Promise-the Alliance for Youth, the National School-to-Work Office, Junior Achievement, and the American Society of Association Executives, the initiative is expected to give more than one million young people an up-close look at the world of work. Students will also have the opportunity to experience career options online through Monter.com's Virtual Job Shadowing program. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.jobshadow.org>.

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## OUTSTANDING ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAMS

Secretary Riley recently announced the 1998-99 winners of the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Adult Education and Literacy Programs. The award program, initiated in 1985, identifies model adult education programs and practices and recognizes their success in assisting adult learners to achieve their educational, personal, and professional goals. Awards in previous years have emphasized exemplary practices, but this year the focus was on quality programs and increased accountability in achieving levels of performance identified in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/>.

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## MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

In an effort to help higher education institutions build and sustain high-quality math tutoring programs, the Education Department's America Counts initiative has designed an Internet roadmap, <http://www.ed.gov/americacounts/roadmap/index2.html>, consisting of suggestions and materials. This information has been compiled from an array of relevant sources and builds on the expertise of people who have administered tutoring and mentoring programs. While some of the recommendations are based upon experiences in literacy, the insights transcend a content focus and can be applied to mathematics tutoring.

Also: The National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century (better known as the Glenn Commission) has created an interactive, online discussion forum. Through this forum, you can view portions of the Commission's meetings and materials and comment on them. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/americacounts/glenn/>.

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## STAR CHART

On January 10, Secretary Riley joined members of the CEO Forum on Education and Technology to release the Teacher Preparation School Technology and Readiness (STAR) Chart, designed to help teacher preparation programs design an effective course for the digital age. Recent studies and reports have found that new teachers are not entering the classroom well-prepared to use technology. In fact, most teachers graduate with limited knowledge of the ways technology can be used in their profession. Schools, colleges, and departments of education can use the chart to identify their current technology profile, set goals for the future, and determine funding priorities. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ceoforum.org/reports.cfm?RID=3>.

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## SERIOUS ABOUT EDUCATION

"['The Good News About American Education' report] shows that in the decade of the 1990s Americans got serious about education, and it is beginning to pay off.... SAT and ACT scores are up. The dropout rate is down. Students are taking more challenging courses. Math and science achievement are on the rise. Students are taking more Advanced Placement exams.... More students are going on to higher education, and more are earning four-year college degrees. More girls are taking high-level math and science courses, and more women are earning graduate and professional degrees. And school crime is declining. This progress demonstrates that the efforts to reform American education by raising standards and strengthening our investments in our schools is working."

-- Secretary Riley (1/7/00)

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Education Department, the National Community Education Association, their state affiliates, and other local organizations are offering a series of one-day regional workshops to assist applicants for grants under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. The workshops will help applicants plan and implement high quality after-school programs, as well as (1) share examples of high-quality programs in each state, (2) disseminate research results, and (3) provide technical assistance on grant writing. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/21stcclc/wkpsch.html>.

In addition, the Gear Up program has announced four Technical Assistance workshops. These workshops are aimed at helping attendees with writing a Gear Up grant proposal:

February 7, 2000	Phoenix, Arizona
February 9, 2000	Kansas City, Missouri
February 16, 2000	Jackson, Mississippi
February 18, 2000	Washington, D.C.

As you may recall, Gear Up provides grants to partnerships between colleges and high-poverty middle schools and junior high schools -- and at least two other partners, including business and community organizations -- to ensure that students receive the necessary support and preparation to succeed in college. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO <http://www.ed.gov/gearup/>.

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**Please feel free to contact the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs with any questions:**

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