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ABSTRACT

The history and accomplishments of the National Education Goals Panel (NEGP) are traced from the Education Summit in Charlottesville (Virginia) in 1989 when President Bush and 50 state governors agreed to set education goals for the nation. The goals were announced in February 1990, and the NEGP was formed in July 1990 to issue annual reports on the progress of the nation and the states toward these goals. The work of Resource Groups, regional forums, and Technical Planning Subgroups culminated in the first annual Goals Report in September 1991. The report of the National Council on Education Standards and Testing in January 1992 further defined the standard setting responsibilities of the NEGP. In the same month, the NEGP adopted a resolution on the future role of the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the release of its results in conjunction with the annual Goals Report. In March 1992, resolutions were passed by the NEGP in support of measurement of progress toward Goals 1 and 2. The 1992 Goals Report was issued in September 1992. The next steps for the NEGP are outlined, as it continues to help develop national assessment systems. (SLD)

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NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

Assessing and Reporting Progress Toward the Achievement of the National Education Goals

"The National Education Goals are an integral part of the challenge to make quality and competitiveness hallmarks of America once again. We on the National Education Goals Panel are committed to providing leaders at all levels with a clearer vision of what needs to be improved to transform our schools and to provide world-class, high-performance learning."

**Nebraska Governor E. Benjamin Nelson
Chair, National Education Goals Panel
(1992-1993)**

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NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS

By the year 2000...

- Goal 1) All children in America will start school ready to learn;**
- Goal 2) The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90%;**
- Goal 3) American students will leave grades four, eight, and twelve having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy;**
- Goal 4) U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement;**
- Goal 5) Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;**
- Goal 6) Every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.**

BACKGROUND ON THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

- **September 1989** **The President and 50 state governors convene an Education Summit at Charlottesville, Virginia, and agree to set education goals for the nation.**

- **February 1990** **Six National Education Goals are announced by the President and governors.**

- **July 1990** **The President and governors form the National Education Goals Panel to issue annual reports on the progress of the nation and states toward the six national goals.**

- **March 1991** **Six Resource Groups of national experts in the areas of the goals, formed by the Goals Panel, submit initial recommendations to the Panel for the selection of short-term and long-term indicators of progress toward the goals.**

- **April 1991** **Governors host eight regional forums across the country, gathering comment from education associations and the public on the selection of indicators to be used in the Goals Report.**

- **May 1991** **The Panel convenes six goal-specific Technical Planning Subgroups to review and comment on the initial recommendations of the Resource Groups.**

- **June 1991** **The Panel creates a Council on Education Standards and Testing, later legislated by Congress, to report on the feasibility and desirability of national education standards and a national system of assessments.**

- **September 1991** **The Panel receives far-reaching recommendations for future indicators and data systems from its Resource Groups and Technical Planning Subgroups.**

The Goals Panel releases its first annual Goals Report.

- **January 1992** **The National Council on Education Standards and Testing releases its report to the Goals Panel, Congress, and to the general public. It recommends that the nation move forward with the development of world-class education standards and with the development of related assessments measuring attainment of those standards. To coordinate their development, the Council proposed: (1) a new National Education Standards and Assessments Council be created with membership appointed by the Goals Panel; (2) the Goals Panel membership be reconfigured to be politically balanced; and (3) the Goals Panel share responsibility with the new Council to certify standards and criteria for assessment of world-class educational performance.**

The National Education Goals Panel accepts the recommendations of the National Council. Panel membership now consists of eight governors (with three from the President's party and 5 from the opposition party), two members of the Administration, and four members of Congress.

PANEL BACKGROUND (CONTINUED)

- **January 1992 (continued)** **The Panel also adopts a resolution on the future of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) which includes: (1) NAEP should assess student achievement at the national and state levels in the five content areas as often as is practical but not less frequently than every three years and should assess achievement in other subjects (e.g., civics, arts, foreign language); (2) NAEP frameworks should be consistent with evolving national content and performance standards in each subject area; and (3) NAEP should release its results in coordination with the annual Goals Report to ensure visibility of NAEP findings in the context of the national goals.**

- **March 1992** **Representatives are appointed by Congressional leadership to serve as full voting members to the Panel.**

The National Education Goals Panel passes a resolution supporting the development of an Early Childhood Assessment System for future measurement of Goal 1. The resolution asserts that this system should include data on five dimensions (cognition and general knowledge, physical well-being and motor development; social and emotional maturity; approaches to learning; and language usage), data from multiple sources; data collected at multiple points during the kindergarten year; data based on a representative sample of students; and data reported in a way that would not label children.

The Goals Panel also adopts a resolution on assessing progress toward Goal 2. The resolution states the Panel seeks the development of a Voluntary State/Local Student Record System to allow the collection of accurate and comparable data on student completers and dropouts at the state level.

- **June 1992** **The Goals Panel selects the format and indicators to use in the 1992 Goals Report.**

- **July 1992** **The Goals Panel adopts a preliminary charter and scope of work plan for a new National Education Standards and Assessments Council.**

The Goals Panel issues a Handbook for Local Goals Reports to guide communities as they begin to prepare their own reports of progress toward the six National Education Goals.

- **September 1992** **The Goals Panel issues the second annual National Education Goals Report.**

NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL CHARGE

Taken from NGA Policy

**Adopted at the National Governors' Association Mid-Winter Meeting
February 4, 1992**

"The National Education Goals Panel will be responsible for determining the indicators used to measure the national education goals and for reporting progress toward their achievement.

Its responsibilities shall include:

- Selecting interim and final measures and appropriate measurement tools to be developed as necessary in each goal area;**
- Determining baselines and benchmarks against which progress may be evaluated;**
- Determining the format for an annual report to the nation;**
- Reporting on the federal government's action to fulfill those responsibilities set forth in the federal-state partnership at Charlottesville, including funding the federal financial role, providing more flexibility in spending under existing federal programs, and controlling mandates that limit the states' ability to fund education, as defined in the Joint Statement issued at the Charlottesville Summit;**
- Reviewing proposed changes in national and international measurement systems as appropriate and make recommendations to the President, the Congress, and the Governors for needed improvements;**
- Appointing members to the National Standards and Assessment Council; and**
- Certifying world-class education standards and criteria for assessments."**

WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL?

Outcome Oriented

The Panel's work focuses on accurately reporting on educational outcomes, such as the number of adults who are literate and the number of students who are competent in subject areas, rather than inputs, such as spending or program offerings.

World-Class Standards

Because of modern global economic competition, we must have world-class standards of educational performance. We must know how our schools compare with the best in the world. The National Education Goals Panel will appoint membership to, and share responsibility with, the new National Education Standards and Assessments Council to coordinate the development of national standards which reflect world-class achievement expectations for all students.

Breadth of Indicators

The National Education Goals do not just cover one subject area, one grade, or even only K-12 education. The six national education goals and their indicators cover pre-natal health care to life-long adult learning.

Measuring Progress Over Time

Each year the Panel's Goals Report will measure progress against past performance allowing the nation and each state to compare itself over time to its own progress toward achieving the goals.

Decade-Long Process

The Panel is an ongoing body committed to reporting to the nation and states every year through 2000 on progress being made toward achieving the goals. During this decade-long process, the Panel will continue its work toward developing better measures to address present data gaps.

NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL MEMBERS

Governors

E. Benjamin Nelson, Nebraska, Present Chair (1992-1993)
Evan Bayh, Indiana
Terry Branstad, Iowa
Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., South Carolina, Past Chair (1991-1992)
Arne Carlson, Minnesota
John Engler, Michigan
John R. McKernan, Jr., Maine
Roy Romer, Colorado, Past Chair (1990-1991)

Members of the Administration

**Carol Rasco, Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy**
Richard Riley, Secretary of Education

Members of Congress

Senator Jeff Bingaman, New Mexico
Senator Thad Cochran, Mississippi
Representative Dale Kildee, Michigan
Representative William Goodling, Pennsylvania

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NEXT STEPS

Measuring Progress Toward the Goals

The 1991 Goals Report contains a number of gaps. In 1992, the Goals Panel solicited expert recommendations on how to close those gaps including development of: a national early childhood assessment system; a system of uniform student records; and improved national and state-level indicators of student achievement in grades 4, 8, and 12. The Panel is also considering proposals for a national collegiate assessment system and international workforce standards and indicators. During the 1993 goal-reporting year, the Panel will continue to pursue these and other possible measures for future Goals Reports.

National Education Standards and Assessments

The National Education Goals Panel has accepted the recommendations of the National Council on Education Standards and Testing and has expanded its responsibilities to include appointing members to a new education standards and assessments council to work jointly with the Panel in adopting national education standards and a voluntary system of assessments to measure performance toward those standards as world-class.

NEGP issues a quarterly newsletter to update colleagues on the activities of the Panel.

The Panel has also just published an updated version of its handbook for local communities as they prepare their own reports of progress toward the National Education Goals.

If you would like to be put on the Panel's mailing list, or if you would like more information on the efforts of the Goals Panel, contact the Goals Panel Office:

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