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Pamphlet, "Making High-Tech Training More Affordable," 2 pages

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the two organizations sponsoring the Northern Virginia Information Technology Career Assistance Loan, you may contact them directly.

Sallie Mae

11600 Sallie Mae Drive
Reston, Virginia 20193
703-810-3000
www.salliemae.com

Northern Virginia Regional Partnership, Inc.

Center for Innovative Technology
2214 Rock Hill Road, Suite 318
Herndon, Virginia 20170
703-834-3200
www.nvrp.org

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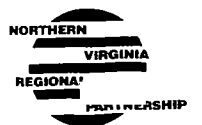
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EDUCATION DAILY

The education community's independent daily news service

AASA Fights Changes To Medicaid Billing Process

School administrators from around the nation last week lobbied Congress to restore a Medicaid reimbursement system that makes it far easier for schools to collect payments for expenses related to serving disabled students.

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA)—holding its annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C., last Thursday—wants the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) to reverse course and let schools continue to bundle groups of health care claims for disabled students who receive health care services needed for their education.

“This is a lot of money,” Jordan Cross, AASA legislative specialist, told a crowd of about 100 superintendents attending the AASA conference. “As you know, some urban districts receive three times as much Medicaid money as they do through” the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Fearing Fraud

The Medicaid controversy starts at the intersection of education, health and disability policy.

Disabled children under IDEA are entitled to receive “related services”—including transportation, counseling, and physical, occupational and speech therapy—should they need such help to receive a free, appropriate education (ED, Dec. 4, 1997).

Medicaid helps districts foot the bill for related services if the disabled child qualifies for the health insurance program. In 1988, Congress passed a law allowing schools to seek Medicaid payments for the cost of low-income, disabled students’ related services, provided the services are listed in federal law and declared medically necessary by the state Medicaid agency (ED Supplement, July 17, 1997).

AASA once estimated that schools were receiving more than \$1 billion in Medicaid funds,
(more on p. 3)

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Research Emphasis Needed To Teach Reading, AFT Says

Teacher education and in-service teacher training programs should reflect the latest research in reading, which affirms an emphasis on phonics, says a new guide by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Since reading is a complex linguistic achievement, reading instructors must master a distinct body of knowledge and skills—and institutions must change to better convey that knowledge, the guide says.

“Teaching children to read is the most fundamental responsibility of the school,” said Sandra Feldman, president of the million-member AFT. “Even children at high risk for reading failure can learn if their teachers know how to use the right teaching strategies.”

While 20 percent of elementary students have significant difficulty reading, scientists at the National Institutes of Health estimate that 95 percent of all children can be taught to read well.

To accomplish that level of teaching, AFT is calling for:

- Systemic and explicit instruction in phonics, decoding, comprehension and literature appreciation;
(more on p. 2)

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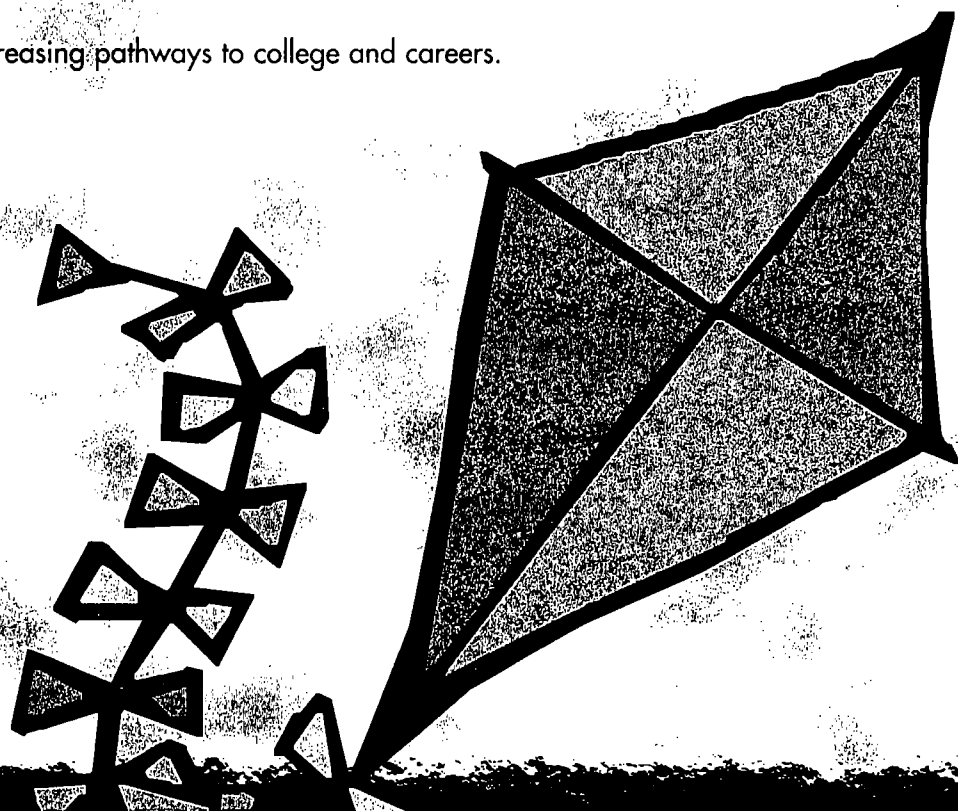
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Preparing Our Students for the 21st Century: Key Areas in Education

As we approach the 21st century, American students must be prepared for an increasingly global job market. Family, business, and community involvement in education can make a significant difference in preparing our children to succeed and get on the right track.

This pamphlet outlines six priority educational action areas on which you could focus your *America Goes Back to School* event or long-term project:

- Making schools safe and drug free;
- Recruiting and preparing quality teachers;
- Modernizing schools;
- Expanding after-school programs;
- Getting high standards into every classroom; and
- Increasing pathways to college and careers.



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Employer Best Practices in School-to-Career



Highlights of San Francisco-Bay Area employers engaged in school-to-career partnerships to create powerfully integrated school, community, and work-site learning opportunities for students.

BAY AREA COUNCIL



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Building an XML Web Site

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Society and Technology

Device-Independent Web Accessibility

XML: The Leading Edge

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