



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Overview of U.S. Department of Education Materials
on the
Goals 2000: Educate America Act**

**A Reference for
Department of Education Staff**

Stop by the Goals 2000 Information Resource Center, FB-10 room 2434, or call Jacqueline Missick at 202/401-3033 to receive copies of the following:

Goals 2000 Overview Documents:

- Supporting Community Efforts to Reach Challenging Goals and High Standards: Describes Major Directions of Goals 2000. 5 pages. October 27, 1994. (Also available in brochure format entitled, The Goals 2000 Act: Supporting Community Efforts to Improve Schools. December 5, 1994.)
- Legislative Summary: Timetable and Funding plus Components of Act. 5 pages. October 27, 1994.
- The Goals 2000: Educate America Act -- An Overview for State Legislators. 4 pages. December 5, 1994.
- Goals 2000: Educate America Act Guidance: Overview of Guidance on Using Goals 2000 funds. 35 pages. May 25, 1994.
- General speech on Goals 2000 and Family Involvement. November, 1994.
- Overview Brochure on All Department Initiatives (released December 5, 1994.)

Materials On Goals 2000 Targeted to Community Groups

- Goals 2000: An Invitation to Your Community: publication designed for parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, community and business leaders with questions about Goals 2000 and how they can improve their schools. 67 pages. September 28, 1994. (Official printed copies available in mid-December 1994.)
- Community Update Newsletter: Special Issue on Passage of Act and What Goals 2000 Means for You. 6 pages. No. 13, May 1994. (Copies of the monthly newsletter on community school improvement efforts also available.)

- Goals 2000 Satellite Town Meeting Videos. Includes programs on "Mobilizing Your Community to Achieve the National Education Goals" and "Reaching High Standards for All Students." Available on a loan basis only, for 2 weeks each. Videos are not available until one month after broadcast. (See attached listing for topics.)
- The Community Action Tool Kit, compiled by the National Education Goals Panel. Sections of the kit available, in limited supply, from the Department :
 - a) Guide to Getting out Your Message
 - b) Community Organizing
 - c) Guide to Goals and Standards
 (See below to order entire kit)

Materials on Academic Standards:

- High Standards for All Students: Brochure on academic standards. 7 pages. September, 1994.
- Standards for All: A Vision for Education in the 21st Century. Background paper produced for a Satellite Town Meeting on standards. 9 pages. September, 1993.
- Talking points and Q & A piece on Voluntary National Standards. 2 pages. December 5, 1994.

Materials to Clarify Concerns Raised About Goals 2000:

- Strong Protection Against Federal Intrusion in Goals 2000: Overview of Flexibility and Assistance for State and Local Education Reforms Provided for in the Act. 2 pages. October 20, 1994.
- Clarification of Concerns Raised about Goals 2000. Myth v. Reality. 4 pages. December 5, 1994.

Materials on the Family Involvement Initiative:

- Strong Families, Strong Schools: Building Community Partnerships for Learning. 50 pages. September 1994. Limited copies available.
- Home Learning Recipes Brochure, distributed as part of the Department's Family Involvement Initiative. July, 1994.

Helpful Products Also Available From Department Partners:

- Moving America to the Head of the Class: 50 Simple Things You Can Do to Help Kids Learn. A product of the Keep the Promise Campaign sponsored by the Education Excellence Partnership. Call 1-800-96 Promise to receive

a copy.

- National Education Goals Panel Community Action Toolkit. Complete kits can be ordered by calling the Government Printing Office at (202) 512-1800. \$37.00 for the entire kit. The stock number is: #065-000-00680-4.

Additional Department Materials Currently in Production Include:

- 1) Video on Standards
- 2) A series of videos on school reform targeted to different audiences
- 3) Draft Guidance for Reviewers for Reviewing Comprehensive Plans Developed Under the Goals 2000: Educate American Act. 15 pages. (Document currently in external review process.)
- 4) Teachers and Goals 2000: Leading the Journey Toward High Standards for All Students (available in draft form now.)
- 5) A Comprehensive School Reform Strategy: Goals 2000, School-to-Work, and the Improving America's Schools Act.
- 6) Speaker's Bureau Kit on Goals 2000
- 7) Systemic Reform Booklet -- to give local and state educators and educational policy makers a basic understanding of systemic reform and the issues that surround it.

December 5, 1994

GOALS 2000 SATELLITE TOWN MEETING
1994-95 SERIES SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 28, 1994 8:30 p.m. Eastern
"Mobilizing Your Community to Achieve the National Education Goals"

Tuesday, October 18, 1994 8:30 p.m. Eastern
*"Learning On-Line:
Using Technology to Connect Children, Parents and Schools"*

Tuesday, November 15, 1994 8:30 p.m. Eastern
"Connecting Families and Schools: Building Partnerships that Work"

Tuesday, January 17, 1995 8:30 p.m. Eastern
"School-to-Work: Preparing Students and Adults for Challenging Jobs"

Tuesday, February 21, 1995 8:30 p.m. Eastern
*"Safe Schools:
Providing Our Children with a Disciplined and Drug-Free Learning Environment"*

Tuesday, March 21, 1995 8:30 p.m. Eastern
"Math and Science: Education for the 21st Century"

Tuesday, April 18, 1995 8:30 p.m. Eastern
*"Ready to Learn:
How Families and Communities Can Prepare Children for Success in School"*

Tuesday, May 16, 1995 8:30 p.m. Eastern
*"Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms:
High Standards and Accountability"*

Tuesday, June 20, 1995 8:30 p.m. Eastern
*"Learning to Read:
Community Strategies for Creating More Literate Students and Adults"*

GOALS 2000 COMMUNITY PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES VIDEO LIBRARY

Past productions of the GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting and other products are available free of charge through a lending library. VHS videotapes are available for a two week period by calling 1-800-USA-LEARN. The GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting is not copyrighted and viewers are encouraged to make copies and distribute it in their communities.

If you plan to broadcast the GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting and need a broadcast quality 3/4" videotape, please call 1-800-USA-LEARN and ask to speak to Kimberly Watkins-Foote.

The library includes:

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #1:

Involving Colleges, Universities & Community Colleges
1993

March 9,

Guests: Diana Natalicio, President of the University of Texas at El Paso; Keith Sanders, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Angela Burkhalter, Assistant Principal at North Augusta Middle School, North Augusta, S.C.; and, Donald Stewart, President, The College Board.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #2:

Transition from School to Work

April 13, 1993

Guests: President Bill Clinton; Secretary of Labor Robert Reich; Stephen Hamilton, professor of human development and family studies at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and director of the Cornell Youth and Work Program; Helen Gabriel, dean of professional and technical education services at Portland Community College, Portland, OR; and Lucian Yates, principal of Western High School, Louisville, KY.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #3:

Organizing Your Community

May 18, 1993

Guests: Alyce P. Hill, Executive Director, Cities in Schools; Ann Lynch, co-chair, NEVADA 2000 and past president of the National PTA; Robert Sexton, Executive Director, The Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence, the citizen action group that helped attain passage of the landmark Kentucky Education Reform Act in 1990; and Anthony Podesta, president of Podesta Associates, a national public policy consulting firm specializing in grassroots organizing and communications.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #4:

All Children "Ready to Learn"

June 22, 1993

Guests: Ernest Boyer, president of the Carnegie Foundation; Barbara Kamara, director of the District of Columbia's Office of Early Childhood Development; Carol Scott, project director for Independence, Missouri's Head Start Transition Project; and Robert Campbell, vice chairman of the board of directors of Johnson & Johnson.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #5:

Safe, Disciplined, & Drug-Free Schools

July 20, 1993

Guests: U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno; U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala; Dr. Lee Brown, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Peter Blauvelt, director of security for the Prince George's County (Maryland) Public Schools; Beverly Watts Davis, executive Director, San Antonio Fighting Back, Texas; and Edith Langford, director, Weed and Seed program, Richmond, Virginia.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #6:

Reaching High Standards for All Students

September 21, 1993

Guests: Shirley Malcolm, American Association for or the Advancement of Science; Gilbert Grosvenor, president and chairman of the board of the National Geographic Society; Brian Benzel, superintendent, Edmonds, Washington; Sharon LeBlond, mathematics teacher, Norway, Maine.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #7:

New Technology: Transforming Education

October 19, 1993

Guests: Henry Marockie, State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia; Stanley Johnson, computer science teacher, Jefferson Junior High School, Washington, D.C.; Jacquelyn Brand, director, Alliance for Technology Access; David Thornburg, head of the Thornburg Center for Professional Development; and Linda Roberts, special advisor on educational technology, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #8:

Transforming Kentucky's Schools: A Profile of Systemic Reform

November 16, 1993

Guests: Thomas Boysen, State Commissioner of Education, Kentucky; Lois Weinberg, Chair, The Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence, Kentucky; Sherron Jackson, parent, Frankfort, Kentucky; and Marge des Grossielliers, principal, The Cabot School, Cabot, Vermont.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #9:

The Arts in Education

January 18, 1994

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #10:

Opportunity to Learn: Helping ALL Students Reach High Standards

February 15, 1994

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #11:

Preparing World-Class Teachers

March 15, 1994

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #12:

Helping U.S. Students To Be First in the World in Math and Science

April 19, 1994

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #13:

Time and Learning: New Ideas for Inside and Outside School

May 17, 1994

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #14:

Increasing Parent Involvement in Education

June 21, 1994

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #15:

Mobilizing Your Community to Achieve the National Education Goals
1994

September 28,

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting #16:

Learning On-line: Education and the Information Super Highway

October 18, 1994

Also:

GOALS 2000 Overview

Produced April 1994

A five minute overview of the major component of the GOALS 2000: Educate America legislation.

GOALS 2000 Satellite Town Meeting Overview

Produced

May 1994

A four minute promotional piece about the Satellite Town Meeting.

"The State of American Education"

February 15,

1994

An address by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. (One hour)

"A Conversation About Education in America"

August 1994

Secretary Riley talks with the 1994 National Principal of the Year, the 1994 Teacher of the Year, the 1994 Missouri Principal of the Year, and a parent from Fairfax County, Virginia.

"Solving Youth Violence: Partnerships that Work"

August 16, 1994

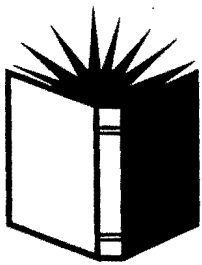
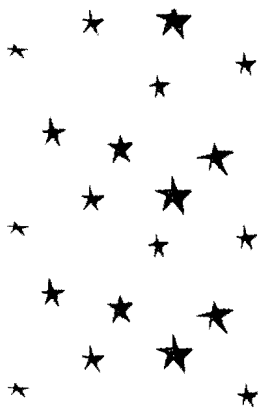
A special two-hour teleconference featuring Vice President Al Gore and examples of programs successfully addressing the problems of youth violence.

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

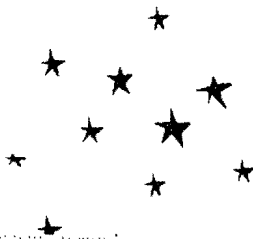
\This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

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GOALS
2000



The **GOALS 2000 Act**
Supporting Community
Efforts to Improve Schools



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STRONG PROTECTION AGAINST FEDERAL INTRUSION IN GOALS 2000

Goals 2000 is designed to provide Federal support, in the form of financial assistance and models or exemplars of outstanding practices, to education reforms designed and initiated at the local and state levels. Education is a State and local responsibility, and, over the past decade in particular, the leadership for raising academic standards and improving education overall has come from the State and local levels. Goals 2000 will enable participating States and local communities to strengthen these reforms, broaden grass roots involvement in them, and more rapidly involve all schools, parents and educators in education improvement.

Goals 2000 is different from other Federal education programs. While Federal legislation is often designed and intended to require or encourage States, localities or individuals to do things they would not otherwise do, Goals 2000 is designed to assist States and localities to undertake education reforms they are already committed to.

Consequently, the Goals 2000 Act provides maximum flexibility to States, local education agencies, and individual schools in designing their own approaches to improving education. The main requirements of the law are that: (1) these approaches be aimed at helping all students reach challenging academic standards set by each State; (2) these approaches have a reasonable chance of success; (3) that there is a significant commitment within the state to implementing them; and, (4) that they provide for a good deal of local flexibility.

Because the Goals 2000 program is designed to encourage and support reforms initiated at the local and State levels, it does not in any way seek to impose a "federal" approach to specific State or local approaches. In addition, it contains the following provisions that limit federal involvement and protect State and local control:

- o Prohibition on Federal mandates, direction and control. Nothing in the Goals 2000 Act authorizes any Federal official to mandate, direct or control State, local school district or individual school curriculum, program of instruction, or allocation of resources, or to require any State, local district or school to incur any costs not covered by Goals 2000. (Section 318)
- o State and Local Government Control of Education. Reaffirms that State and local governments have primary responsibility for control of education, and that the Federal government shall not directly or indirectly impose standards or promulgate rules or regulations that would reduce or undermine State and local control. (Section 319)

- o Unconditioned State Participation. No State shall be required to obtain certification of its standards from the National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC), nor participate in Goals 2000 in any way, as a condition of participating in any Federal education program, such as Chapter 1, Drug Free Schools, vocational education, or Goals 2000. (Section 213(h)(1))
- o Voluntary National Standards shall be certified by NESIC only if they are sufficiently general to be used by any State without restricting State and local control of curriculum. (Section 213(e))
- o National Standards do not create legally enforceable rights. Standards and assessments certified by NESIC do not create legally enforceable rights against States, school districts or individual schools. (Section 213(h)(2))
- o States participating in Goals 2000 do not submit their standards for review to NESIC (see above) or to the Secretary of Education for review and approval. In order to receive funds under Goals 2000, States must present plans for a process to develop state content standards. They are not required to submit the actual standards to the Education Department for approval. (Section 306 (c)(1))
- o Opportunity to learn standards or strategies. While States must develop opportunity to learn standards or strategies, they only have to include the factors the State itself deems appropriate to achieve its own content and performance standards. In other words, opportunity to learn strategies or standards are determined by a State and focused on improved student learning. (Section 306 (d))

In addition to these specific provisions of the Goals 2000 Act, the U.S. Department of Education has taken additional steps to reduce the possibility of inappropriate federal intrusion, and to preserve all of the State and local discretion incorporated into the law:

- o The Department of Education has not issued any new regulations to implement Title III of Goals 2000. The Education Department intends to implement the program of grants for State and local education improvement without issuing additional, complicated regulations that micromanage a flexible program.
- o The Education Department has designed a streamlined application procedure for states, that cuts paperwork considerably. The initial application for States to request Goals 2000 funds is only 4 pages long, asks only for information required by law to award funds, and eliminates numerous forms.



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Mike Cohen

Author: Kay Kahler at WDCB01
Date: 5/8/95 6:25 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: Margaret Battle
Subject: Revised Goals 2000 Documents

----- Message Contents -----

Attached are two recently revised Goals 2000 documents,
for your information:

- an April 18, 1995 update of the legislation and an
overview of its implementation; and
- an updated "myths and reality" piece that addresses
misconceptions about Goals 2000.

Both documents have graphic headers, so please print them
out on a network printer (HP LaserJet III or IV).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Eileen Nicosia/OPA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Misconceptions About the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act

The passage of the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act in March of 1994, heralded a new role for the federal government in its support for education. No longer would the federal role focus only on narrow categorical programs to help mostly disadvantaged children. Now, it would also promote a comprehensive approach to help all students succeed academically. This new focus on achievement grew out of a bipartisan recognition that too many U.S. students were not achieving at the levels necessary for them to succeed in the modern economy.

As the federal government carries out this new role of flexible support for state and local school improvement efforts, some misconceptions have arisen about GOALS 2000. The following outlines those misconceptions, and addresses the concerns that have been raised.

Concern: GOALS 2000 will lead to a federal government takeover of local education.

Reality: Section 318 of the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act makes it absolutely clear that there are no mandates, and there will be no federal takeover: "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an officer or employee of the Federal Government to mandate, direct, or control a state, local educational agency, or school's curriculum, program of instruction, or allocation of State or local resources or mandate a State or any subdivision thereof to spend any funds or incur any costs not paid for under this Act." Section 319 of the Act again clarifies that Congress "reaffirms that the responsibility for control of education is reserved to the states and local school systems."

The primary goal of the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act is to encourage local community-based actions that meet pressing educational needs, help more students achieve to higher standards, increase parental participation, and improve teaching. GOALS 2000 provides federal support for local and state reforms. The Act provides great flexibility in how states and communities develop and implement their reform plans. One of the key assurances a state must give when applying for GOALS 2000 funds is that the state will seek broad public participation in the GOALS 2000 planning process.

There are specific statements throughout the GOALS 2000 Act that nothing in the Act will reduce, modify, or undercut state and local responsibility for control of education. In addition, participation in GOALS 2000 is completely voluntary.

Concern: Our schools will henceforth be pushed toward a philosophy known as Outcome-Based Education (OBE).

Reality: The legislation doesn't promote any particular education philosophy or approach; that is a local decision. GOALS 2000 focuses on upgrading academic achievement and preparing students for the world of work. Each state, school district, and school determines what content it wants students to learn, and whether that content should focus strictly on core academic and basic skills or should also include other areas. The federal government will not be involved in those kinds of local decisions.

Concern: GOALS 2000 creates the National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC), which will act as a "national school board" and control what is taught in the classroom.

Reality: NESIC was initially recommended in 1992 by a bipartisan group, authorized by Congress and appointed by Secretary Lamar Alexander and cochaired by Governor Carroll Campbell (R-SC) and Governor Roy Romer (D-CO). The council included, among others, Representative Goodling, Senator Hatch, Lynne Cheney, and Chester Finn.

The purpose of the council was to provide an independent review of the quality of model national and state academic standards being developed by professional organizations in each discipline. These standards would be submitted voluntarily. There was no requirement that a state receive certification as a condition of participating in any federal education program, such as Chapter 1, Drug-Free Schools, vocational education, or GOALS 2000. NESIC also would not review a state's school improvement plan developed under GOALS 2000.

NESIC was to be comprised of 19 members, including educators, employers, and state and local officials, appointed by the president from nominations made by the National Education Goals Panel (comprised of governors, state legislators, Congress, and the administration), the House and Senate leadership, and the secretary of education.

Despite the carefully delineated authority provided to NESIC under the GOALS 2000 Act, many people are concerned about any national certification of standards. Upon recommendation by the National Education Goals Panel on January 28, 1995, the secretary of education has asked the president not to appoint NESIC. Discussions regarding other options for helping states develop the highest quality academic standards for children have begun on Capitol Hill and with state officials. Four bills have been introduced in Congress to eliminate NESIC. Congress will be debating these proposals later this year.

Concern: GOALS 2000 requires the use of the national history standards recently released.

Reality: Under GOALS 2000, states and districts determine their own academic standards that outline what they want their children to learn. If they choose, states and communities can use voluntary national standards developed by professional organizations as models to design their own challenging standards. Several states are adopting parts of the model national standards while others are developing their own standards. National standards are voluntary. No funds are tied to the use of these standards, or of any subset of these standards. No law or regulation requires their use in any way.

Although the release of the history standards has evoked a great deal of controversy, efforts to develop voluntary national standards in other content areas, coordinated by such groups as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Center for Civic Education, and the National Geographic Society, have been well received. Drafts of these standards have been reviewed by hundreds of teachers and other concerned citizens. The standards represent what teachers and scholars believe students should know in subject areas such as math, geography, civics, and the arts by certain points in their education. The much acclaimed math standards, released in 1989, are being used in classrooms across the nation.

Concern: GOALS 2000 will encourage the proliferation of school-based health clinics, and move schools away from the fundamental duty of education and into the provision of reproductive services.

Reality: The focus of the GOALS 2000: Educate America Act is improving student achievement, greater parental participation, discipline and safety in our schools, better teaching, higher high school graduation rates, and greater rates of adult literacy. GOALS 2000 does not change the fact that decisions regarding school-based health clinics and the distribution of contraceptives remain a state and local responsibility. In addition, section 1018 of the Act requires that states and local communities that choose to use federal funds for health programs develop procedures to encourage family participation in such programs.

Concern: GOALS 2000 is another burdensome federal program with a multitude of rules and regulations.

Reality: GOALS 2000 is a "responsible block grant." It sets broad objectives and goals, but allows the states to determine the means to reach them. The Department of Education has not, and will not, issue any regulations for GOALS 2000. The Department of Education has designed a streamlined application procedure for states that cuts paperwork considerably. The initial

application for states to request GOALS 2000 money is only 4 pages long, asks only for information required by law to award funds, and eliminates numerous forms.

Concern: GOALS 2000 does not promote innovative approaches to school reform.

Reality: GOALS 2000 encourages the creation of new innovative partnerships, and provides historic flexibility and waiver authority. For example, Massachusetts is using its GOALS 2000 funds to support the creation of 14 charter schools.

Concern: GOALS 2000 promotes opportunity-to-learn standards that focus on inputs rather than on standards for student achievement.

Reality: GOALS 2000 reflects an unwavering commitment to results. Developing and implementing challenging standards for what students should know and be able to do in key subject areas, and effectively measuring student performance against these standards, are cornerstones of the bill. States and school districts--not the federal government--will define and monitor these standards. The federal government will not be involved in monitoring individual schools or teachers.

The Act also provides for establishing opportunity-to-learn standards or strategies, which are very carefully defined to reflect the essential areas related directly to teaching and learning: quality and availability of curriculum, instructional materials, and technologies; the capacity of teachers to provide quality instruction in each content area; and the access of teachers and administrators to professional development. The opportunity-to-learn standards or strategies are intended to serve as a guide, and their implementation is voluntary.

Concern: The GOALS 2000 Act is the result of the liberal education establishment's wish list.

Reality: GOALS 2000 passed the Congress with strong bipartisan support, and has been endorsed by national business organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Alliance of Business, the Business Roundtable, and the National Association of Manufacturers. The GOALS 2000 Act supports an education reform agenda that was spearheaded by governors of both parties. It is a balanced bill, one that provides national leadership and some federal funds to support grassroots, bottom-up reform.

Concern: Congress and the federal bureaucracy do not support the following basic elements of good education:

- character development based on honesty, integrity, selflessness, compassion, and self-discipline;
- curricula focusing on the basics, including math, science, literature, linguistic skills, music, art, and history; and
- parents as the children's first teacher, with schools as a supportive partner.

Reality: Academic achievement, responsible citizenship, and parental involvement are essential features of the GOALS 2000 Act. There is a strong consensus that citizenship, knowledge of core academic subject matter, and parent-teacher cooperation are critical if this country is going to reach the National Education Goals. For example the third goal states: "By the year 2000, all students will leave grades 4, 8, and 12 having **demonstrated competency** in challenging subject matter, including English, math, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography, and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so that they may be prepared for **responsible citizenship**, further learning, and productive employment in our Nation's modern economy."

This goal represents a vision for this country. It is our hope that all interested Americans--Democrats, Republicans, parents, teachers, business leaders--will work together to see that it becomes a reality by the year 2000.

May 8, 1995 k:\shared\g2k\myths



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GOALS 2000: EDUCATE AMERICA ACT

April, 1995 Update



To date, forty-five states have received first-year funds under the Goals 2000 Act to support school, district and state education improvement efforts. In addition, three states have already had comprehensive reform plans approved and will receive second-year funding.

Goals 2000 is seeking to raise academic achievement through improved teaching and learning by supporting high-quality teacher professional development, supporting the expanded use of computers and technology in classrooms, raising academic standards, and increasing parental and community involvement in education.

Bipartisan History

- The Goals 2000 Act is based on lessons learned from state and local education improvement efforts sparked by the Reagan Administration's 1983 report A Nation At Risk;
- The nation's governors and President Bush laid the groundwork for the Goals 2000 Act in 1990 when they established national goals for education and launched a grassroots state and local effort to reach them;
- The Goals 2000 Act passed with strong bipartisan support in Congress and with the endorsement of every major national business, parent, and education organization;
- The Goals 2000 Act, signed into law by President Clinton on March 31, 1994, recognizes that education is a state and local responsibility, but it must also be a national priority. The Act provides direct support to state and local school improvement efforts.

Goals 2000:

- represents the first federal education act that helps states and communities build on and coordinate their existing reform efforts rather than creating a new discrete program;
- provides incentive grants for schools, communities and states to support their own effective approach to improve student achievement;
- provides funds to states and school districts for better teacher training and professional development;

- encourages parents to get more involved in the education of their children;
- promotes flexibility by providing, for the first time in history, authority for the Secretary of Education to waive certain regulations to assist states and local communities in implementing school improvements;
- encourages each state to develop challenging academic standards for students.

Overview of Implementation of the Goals 2000 Act

Goals 2000 recognizes that there is no cookie-cutter approach to improving education. It supports a wide array of state and local approaches to raise academic achievement.

No regulations have been or will be issued for Goals 2000. The application for Goals 2000 first-year funds is only four pages. On average, state funding awards have been granted in less than a month following submission of the application.

Year 1: Under Title III of Goals 2000, participating states will use funds to form broad-based citizen panels responsible for developing or building upon a comprehensive statewide school improvement plan. At least 60 percent of the funds must be passed on to individual school districts and schools for teacher professional development and district and school strategic planning. Congress appropriated \$105 million for Goals 2000 in 1994.

Years 2-5: Funds for years two through five will support implementation of state, district and community education improvement plans. At least 90 percent of the funds must be passed on to individual school districts and schools. Congress has appropriated \$403 million for 1995.*

Every state is using Goals 2000 to support its own unique approach to improving education. In Massachusetts, Goals 2000 funds are being used to support the creation of charter schools. In Kentucky, funds are being used to encourage parental involvement in ongoing reform efforts. In Illinois, challenging standards for student achievement have been set in six core subject areas.

While implementation is still in the early stages, it is evident that Goals 2000 is uniting local and state leaders in a combined effort to provide - community by community - a quality education that prepares all children for responsible citizenship and productive employment in our modern economy.

* Some 1995 Goals 2000 funds have been proposed for rescission.