# STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY 36130

FOB JAMES, JR.
GOVERNOR

September 27, 1995

Honorable Richard W. Riley
Secretary
United States Department of Education
500 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D. C. 20202-0100

Dear Secretary Riley:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns that the Goals 2000 program represents a new and unprecedented level of potential federal intrusion into state and local responsibility for and control over public education.

Furthermore, I understand that Congress is reconsidering the Goals 2000 program in its entirety. Many of the concerns expressed about potential federal interference with state and local education policy may be alleviated by changes that would make this program a block grant and revise, reduce, or eliminate the extensive statutory provisions that are the source of much of the concern about the current Goals 2000 law. Also, it is a very real prospect that the program will be eliminated completely, as provided in the budget resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in May.

Therefore, given the magnitude of the issues presented and the genuine concerns created by this potentially sweeping new federal involvement in education, I request to end the State of Alabama's current participation in Goals 2000. It is my understanding that a state may choose to terminate participation by notifying you in writing of its decision to cease participation in the program and by no longer drawing on available funds. Therefore, Alabama will no longer be drawing available funds under this program.

I appreciate your continuing efforts to improve the quality of education in the United States and in working with the State of Alabama concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Fob James Jr

FJjr:dhd

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE SECRETARY

May 16, 1994

The Honorable Neal Smith
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services and Education
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Smith:

On March 31, the President signed into law the Goals 2000: Educate America Act -- a giant step forward in reinventing education and changing the way the Department of Education does business. This law will help to ensure that every student receives a challenging world-class education and learns to high standards. It also marks a historic change in the Federal Government's role in the American education process.

Now that Goals 2000 has been enacted, I am writing to tell you how we plan to use the fiscal year 1994 funds that the Congress appropriated last year on a contingency basis. But first, I want to express my appreciation for your support.

After six years of effort to pass education reform legislation, the Congress demonstrated strong bipartisan concern for the educational well-being of our Nation. I truly believe that we would not have this historic legislation today had it not been for the strong signal of support that your committee sent last year when it provided a contingent appropriation for the President's bill. I know the President joins me in extending our heartfelt thanks for your efforts.

Our staff at the Department of Education has been working hard preparing to implement Goals 2000, and we are well on our way to sending out the first grants to the States. Following is a breakdown of how we plan to allocate the $105,000,000 that Congress appropriated for this purpose in 1994:

<u>National Education Goals Panel</u>........................ $3,000,000

The Goals Panel will be composed of 18 members -- two appointed by the President, eight Governors, four Members of Congress, and four members of State legislatures. It will report annually on State and national progress toward achieving the National Education Goals, and will build and maintain public support for the educational reforms necessary to achieve the goals.

The Panel will review criteria the National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC) uses to certify State content standards, State student performance standards, State assessments, and State opportunity-to-learn standards. It will also review the voluntary national content and student performance standards and voluntary opportunity-to-learn standards certified by NESIC, as well as the criteria for certification of these standards.

The Goals Panel is established as an independent agency. Therefore, these funds, which will support the Panel's work from July 1, 1994, through September 30, 1995, will be transferred directly to that agency. Beginning in fiscal year 1996, the Goals Panel will submit its budget request directly to the Congress.

<u>National Education Standards and Improvement Council (NESIC)</u>........................................ $2,000,000

The National Education Standards and Improvement Council will be composed of 19 members -- to be appointed by the President from among nominations received from the Secretary of Education, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate and the National Education Goals Panel. NESIC will establish criteria for, examine, and certify voluntary national content, student performance, and opportunity-to-learn standards, and assessment systems. It will also develop criteria for the certification of State assessments and will review standards and assessment systems voluntarily submitted by States. Like the Goals Panel, NESIC is authorized as an independent agency, and, in the future, will submit its budget request directly to the Congress.

<u>State and Local Education Systemic Improvement</u>....... $87,400,000
<u>State Technology Planning Grants</u>......................$5,000,000

This new system of State grants, authorized by Title III of the Act, supports State and local improvement efforts aimed at helping all students reach challenging standards. Under Title III, each State will begin development of a comprehensive improvement plan, including a plan for improving student achievement through integration of technology into the curriculum, to help all students meet the standards. Funds for the first Title III grants will be available July 1, 1994.

States will use at least 60 percent of their 1994 Systemic Improvement grant funds for subgrants to LEAs for the development and implementation of local improvement plans, the improvement of preservice teacher education programs, and professional development. Of the subgrant funds that it allocates for local improvement plans, each State must allocate at least half to LEAs that have a greater percentage or number of disadvantaged children than the statewide average. States will use the remainder of these funds (up to 40 percent of each State Systemic Improvement grant) to develop their comprehensive statewide improvement plans that, generally, will be submitted with the second year's application. Beginning in 1995, each State will pass through at least 90 percent of its Goals 2000 funds for local subgrants.

States will use their State Technology Planning grants to develop plans to improve student achievement through technology, as part of their overall systemic improvement plan.

Enclosed with this letter is a chart showing estimated Title III State allocations for fiscal year 1994.

<u>National Skill Standards Board</u>........................ $3,000,000

For 1994, the Department will transfer funds for the National Skill Standards Board to the Department of Labor. The Board will promote the development of occupational skill standards that define what workers need to know in specific occupations and help American workers become better trained and internationally competitive. Beginning in 1995, funding for the Board is requested by the Department of Labor.

<u>National Leadership and Other Federal Activities</u>...... $4,600,000

These funds will be used for a variety of activities, all of which will support the reform efforts of States and localities. Included in our plans for National Leadership are:

- Assisting urban and rural LEAs with large numbers or concentrations of students who are economically disadvantaged, or who have limited English proficiency, in developing and implementing local school-improvement plans;
- Providing technical assistance to States and localities;
- Laying the groundwork for the evaluation of Goals 2000 activities;
- Identifying and helping to replicate coordinated services programs found to be successful in helping students and families and improving student outcomes; and
- Establishing a peer review system to review State plans.

Our 1995 budget for Goals 2000 was proposed for later transmittal, pending enactment of authorizing legislation, and we will soon be sending you a budget amendment and a justification for our 1995 proposals. Those documents will contain more detail on our plans for fiscal year 1995, including plans for two authorities under Title II of Goals 2000 that we have not addressed in this letter -- opportunity-to-learn grants and assessment development and evaluation grants.

Under these two authorities, the Department would support efforts to develop voluntary national opportunity-to-learn standards and assist States and localities with the costs of developing State assessments that will be used to determine whether students are meeting State content standards. While these activities are essential ingredients of the Goals 2000 reform effort, we would not be able to make 1994 grants under those authorities until spring or summer of 1995. By that time the 1995 funds, which we hope will be a substantial increase, will be available and can be used for those purposes.

I believe that March 26, 1994, the day Congress passed the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, will be remembered as the day the United States got serious about education. I thank you for helping to make that day happen, and I look forward to reporting to you periodically on the progress that we make. I am sending identical letters to Congressman Porter and Senators Harkin and Specter.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Riley

Richard W. Riley

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable William D. Ford

***National Education Goals Panel***
*1850 M Street, NW, Suite 270*
*Washington, DC 20036*

# Fax Cover Sheet

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DATE:** | October 5, 1995 | **TIME:** | 10:22 AM |
| **TO:** | *Michael Cohen*<br>*Office of the Secretary* | **PHONE:**<br>**FAX:** | *(202) 401-3385*<br>*(202) 401-0596* |
| **FROM:** | *Ken Nelson*<br>*Executive Director* | **PHONE:**<br>**FAX:** | *(202) 632-0952*<br>*(202) 632-0957* |

**RE:** *Please see attached materials.*

**Number of pages including cover sheet: 7**

# NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

To: Carol Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

From: Ken Nelson, Executive Director, National Education Goals Panel

Re: Fy' 96 Appropriations for the Goals Panel

Date: October 5, 1996

The Goals Panel has appreciated your active participation as the White House liaison during the past three years. We now need your help more than ever. The House provided no money for the Panel for FY '96 and the Senate provided only $1 million, which is 56% below FY '95. We need $2 million in FY '96 to fulfill our assessing and reporting responsibilities and the new charges given to us by the Panel, regarding academic standards and other state services. This is still a 15% cut from last year.

We have bi-partisan support from the governors who have sent the attached letters to the republican and democratic leadership of the respective Senate and House appropriation committees. We have suffered from two problems. The Panel has been swept up in the larger controversy that swirls around Goals 2000. And at a time of such significant cuts it has been difficult for us to get an effective advocate for our small request. Senators Bingaman and Cochran were not able to add to the $1 million for fear of the impact the debate would have on Goals 2000. We believe that Senators Specter and Hatfield are sympathetic. Congressman Goodling spoke to Senator Specter on our behalf as did other people. Senator Harkin's staff has been apprised of our efforts.

Also, during the House floor debate Congressman Riggs secured the promise from Congressman Porter that the House would accept the amount for the Goals Panel brought to the conference committee by the Senate. Gov. Thompson had received similar assurances from both Congressmen Livingston and Porter.

1850 M Street, NW · Suite 270 · Washington, DC 20036
(202) 632-0952 FAX (202) 632-0957

This brings us to you. We remind people that President Clinton was the lead democratic governor at the 1989 Charlottesville summit and remains strongly committed to the Goals Panel. In fact, the President's budget provided $2.8 in FY'96 for the Panel. As you commence a negotiations process with Congress on the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education appropriations bill, or after the presidential veto, please advocate for our request for $2 million. There should not be significant opposition in the Senate or House if the letters signed by the governors have an impact, and with the commitments listed above. A conservative Republican Governor, John Engler has been elected to be the Panel chair, 1995-96. As you know, we have always been bipartisan and our membership is state dominated.

The Panel's duties are becoming more state focused. Under the leadership of Governors Romer and Engler the Panel will help states develop high academic standards through a peer review process. We are establishing a World Class Benchmarks resource group on standards and assessments, involving the business and post-secondary communities. We will be working with states and communities to develop their own reports on progress toward goal achievement. We will be recognizing high performance schools through a promising practices contest. And, of course, we will continue to monitor and report on progress toward achievement of the national education goals at state and national levels with the best data available. All of this makes systemic reform of education far more possible for the states of this great country. And it illustrates why the Goals Panel is worthy of the $2 million requested. Thank you for your consideration.

If we can be of any assistance please let us know. I have taken the liberty to copy Mike Cohen and Patty Sullivan as people who have been working with us.

cc: Mike Cohen, Office of the Secretary, Department of Education
Patty Sullivan, Director of Education Legislation, National Governors Association

August 1, 1995

The Honorable Mark Hatfield
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatfield:

Following the historic 1989 education summit in Charlottesville, the Governors and President Bush agreed on education goals for the nation and created the National Education Goals Panel as an accountability mechanism to monitor and report on the nation's progress toward achieving the goals. We believe that the Panel continues to play a significant role in assisting states as they work to improve educational performance for all students.

The Goals Panel members have recently initiated new efforts to collect and distribute information on the development of world class academic standards and the assessment of student achievement at the state level. This kind of information will fill an essential need for state policymakers.

While we recognize the difficult decisions that you will face, we strongly urge you to continue funding for the National Education Goals Panel in the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Governor Evan Bayh
State of Indiana

Governor John Engler
State of Michigan

Governor James B. Hunt Jr.
State of North Carolina

Governor John G. Rowland
State of Connecticut

Governor Roy Romer
State of Colorado

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
State of New Jersey

cc: The Honorable Arlen Spector

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor of Wisconsin
Chairman

Bob Miller
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300

September 26, 1995

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
United States Senate
SD 184
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Specter:

As Governors who are current or former members of the National Education Goals Panel, we write to express our strong concern with respect to the funding level provided for the National Education Goals Panel in the Fiscal 1996 Appropriations bill. As reported by the Committee, the bill provides only $1 million in funding for the panel. This level of appropriation will not permit the Panel to continue to produce the National Education Goals Report nor to continue to work with the states in support of school restructuring efforts.

We strongly urge you to work with the U.S. Department of Education to identify sources of funds from other programs within the Department that could be transferred to permit sufficient funding for the National Education Goals Panel. We believe that the Panel should be able to continue to report on progress made toward achieving the national education goals and continue to provide states with technical assistance on school reform efforts.

We thank you for your help with this urgent matter and ask that you contact staff at the National Governors' Association (202) 624-7723 if we can be of any assistance to you in insuring sufficient funding for the Panel to continue its work.

Sincerely,

John Engler
Governor of Michigan

Evan Bayh
Governor of Indiana

Jim Edgar
Governor of Illinois

Roy Romer
Governor of Colorado

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor of New Jersey

Howard Dean, MD
Governor of Vermont

James B. Hunt Jr.
Governor of North Carolina

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*David S. Broder*

# Just Plain Dumb

BURLINGTON, Vt.—Louis V. Gerstner Jr., the chairman of IBM and the man who has engineered its recent turnaround, had a message for the nation's governors when he appeared before their annual summer meeting here this week. Warning that real reform requires resources, Gerstner said, "True change agents put their money where their mouth is."

That message has broad application, not only to the governors but to the self-styled revolutionaries in Washington, who often appear to be letting their budgetary goals predetermine the way they are reshaping programs and agencies.

But there is particular pertinence for one small program that has been a bipartisan project of the governors and now is threatened by small-minded economizers in Congress.

A decade ago, farsighted governors of both parties, including both Bill Clinton of Arkansas and his would-be 1996 Republican opponent, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, launched a program to raise the achievement standards in American schools. Their "national goals" effort was embraced by President Bush in 1989 at his "education summit" in Charlottesville, Va. Last year, it was written into "Goals 2000" legislation by Congress with strong support from President Clinton.

A small but critical piece of the law was the creation of the National Education Goals Panel to ride herd on the project.

Now the House Republicans have moved to kill the entire Goals 2000 program, including the $2.7 million for the goals panel. Even before they heard Gerstner, the governors were saying that strangling this effort is dumb.

That is the view not just of longtime education advocates such as North Carolina's Jim Hunt and Colorado's Roy Romer, both Democrats, but of conservative reformers such as Wisconsin's Tommy Thompson and Michigan's John Engler, both Republicans.

Thompson told me that because so few of the governors who met with Bush in 1989 to launch this campaign are still around, and because few businessmen are as committed to the cause as Gerstner, "we need to jump-start this effort again."

Thompson and Romer both acknowledge that whether they like it or not, the federal grants to states for Goals 2000 programs are likely victims of the budget-cutters. But the goals panel is, in Thompson's words, "the catalyst" and the forum that is needed to keep the effort going.

The governors' original notion was a simple one: In a competitive world, the quality of the education America's youngsters receive is the prime determinant of the nation's future well-being. So they set out goals for themselves. Among others, they said, by 2000, all children would start school ready to learn and at least 90 percent of them would finish high school. Every graduate would have demonstrated competence in nine basic subjects.

> *Why would Congress want to kill our best hope for setting higher standards in the schools?*

No one could argue with the goals. But by setting their deadline so far in the future, Gerstner said, the governors "left a little bit too much . . . cover" for themselves. And, he pointedly said, "Goals aren't worth a damn if you don't measure every day" how near or far the schools are from achieving them.

Last week, in a report that was as direct as Gerstner's speech, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) documented how far we are from being able to measure that progress.

While every state but Iowa has begun to develop tougher academic standards for its students, only 13 states have standards that are "clear and specific enough" to guide curriculum development. While 33 states have or are developing student assessments geared to those standards, only seven states require high school seniors to meet the standards set for 10th-, 11th- or 12th-graders in order to graduate.

The public has become skeptical about education "reforms" that are designed to provide comfort for teachers or students, instead of ensuring that knowledge and skills are actually acquired. This effort falls into the latter category.

The AFT wants an end to platitudes. Instead of saying that fifth-graders "should be able to use basic science concepts to help understand various kinds of scientific information," as one state does, the model should be another state's requirement that those 10-year-olds "should be able to describe the basic processes of photosynthesis and respiration and their importance to life."

That same kind of rigor is what the governors are seeking—and what the goals panel is all about.

Killing it would be one of the dumbest things Congress could do.

NATIONAL GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION



Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300

September 26, 1995

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United States Senate
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We strongly urge you to work with the U.S. Department of Education to identify sources of funds from other programs within the Department that could be transferred to permit sufficient funding for the National Education Goals Panel. We believe that the Panel should be able to continue to report on progress made toward achieving the national education goals and continue to provide states with technical assistance on school reform efforts.

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