

The Education Report

A weekly report of public policy issues in American Education from

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Paige Holds Meeting with School Superintendents, Board Members From Nation's Largest School Districts

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige recently met with school superintendents and school board members from some of the nation's largest school districts as part of his new *Partnership to Leave No Child Behind*. The meeting was an opportunity for Paige and his staff to outline many of the elements of the newly reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and to hear comments and suggestions from local school leaders. Last month, Paige hosted a similar meeting with state education chiefs in Alexandria, VA.

Leaders from the following systems attended: Atlanta Public Schools; Birmingham City Schools; Broward County Public Schools; Buffalo City School District; Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; Chicago Public Schools; Clark County School District; Columbus Public Schools; Dayton Public Schools; Denver Public Schools; and Detroit Public Schools. In addition, District of Columbia Public Schools; Fresno Unified School District; Fort Worth Independent School District; Guilford County Schools; Houston Independent School District; Jefferson County Public Schools; Milwaukee Public Schools; New York City Board of Education; Norfolk Public Schools; Oklahoma City Public Schools; Omaha Public Schools; Orange County Public Schools; Philadelphia Public Schools; Pittsburgh Public Schools; Richmond Public Schools; Rochester City School District; Seattle Public Schools; Toledo Public Schools.

Under the new law, states and school districts will develop strong systems of accountability based upon student performance. The measure also gives those states and school districts increased local control and flexibility in exchange for delivering academic results. For more information about the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, visit <http://www.ed.gov/nclb>.

Teacher Quality Requirements Pose Problems for Voc Ed

Vocational education administrators nationwide are concerned with a new teacher quality requirement in the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." The new federal K-12 education law requires all teachers who teach in core areas to hold at least a bachelor's degree by the 2005-2006 school year. However, under certain circumstances, this requirement could be a huge obstacle to overcome in the career and technical education field. As a result, schools could be forced to eliminate courses that rely on teachers who do not have degrees but are highly qualified in their trade. The Department of Education said it hopes to address this issue soon.

New Director Appointed to Head Office of Special Education Programs

Bob Pasternack, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, has announced the appointment of Stephanie Lee to be the Director of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). In a prepared statement, Pasternack said:

Stephanie comes to OSEP after serving as a consultant and government affairs representative to the National Down Syndrome Society. Over the past 30 years Stephanie has worked extensively and collaboratively with various national organizations, congressional members and staff, as well as various parent advocates to affect disability policy and legislation at the Federal and State levels. As a parent of a child with a disability, Stephanie has a personal understanding of the complex array of issues and challenges facing special education, particularly as we move to the upcoming reauthorization of IDEA. She played a major role in the 1997 reauthorization of IDEA by actively working with national organizations and members of Congress throughout all stages of the reauthorization process. Her experience will be invaluable as we work on behalf of the administration to achieve improved outcomes and results for infants, toddlers, children, and students with disabilities.

New ECS Report Explores What ESEA Means for States

In response to President Bush signing into law the revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Education Commission of the States (ECS) has released a new publication designed to help state leaders understand what the new law will mean for them. The report is entitled "No State Left Behind—The Challenges and Opportunities of ESEA 2001." The new report:

- Summarizes the new law
- Looks at where the states stand in regard to ESEA requirements
- Provides questions for policymakers to consider when deciding how to respond to ESEA.

The full text of the report is available at: <http://www.ecs.org/ecs/ESEA2001>. For more information about the new report, contact ECS Vice President Kathy Christie at 303.299.3613 or kchristie@ecs.org.

Rehabilitation Services Administration Announces Public Forum

The Rehabilitation Services Administration recently announced that it will hold a public forum regarding the Federal Rehabilitation Act, which authorizes the funding of vocational rehabilitation programs serving people with disabilities, independent living programs, projects with industry, client assistant programs, rehabilitation training programs, protection and advocacy, recreation and other demonstration and research programs. If you are interested in providing public testimony or would like more information, please call: 718-933-5650. For those who cannot attend, it is recommended that you provide a written copy of your testimony for the public record. For more information on the act please visit: www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/RSA/Policy.

Date: March 19th, 2002
Time: 1:00 pm-6:00 pm
Place: Metropolitan Hotel (Ballroom), Lexington Ave & 51st Street, NYC
Featured Guest: Joanne Wilson, Commissioner, RSA

President's Special Education Advisory Group Releases Meeting Schedule

The President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education has released the dates and cities of its meeting schedule. When the information is available, the exact location, times, and agenda of each meeting, including whether members of the general public will have an opportunity to offer comments, will be posted on the Commission's website at: www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/sitemap.html.

The schedule of upcoming meetings is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 25-27	Houston, Texas
March 6	Denver, Colorado
March 13	Des Moines, Iowa
March 20	San Diego, California
March 21	Los Angeles, California
April 9-10	Miami, Florida
April 16	New York, New York
April 18	Nashville Tennessee
May 30-31	Washington, DC

107th CONGRESS, 2nd SESSION

TENTATIVE SENATE CALENDAR 2002/ NON-LEGISLATIVE PERIODS

Tom Daschle, Majority Leader

February 25 (Mon.)	Senate reconvenes
March 25 - April 5	Senate not in session
March 29	<i>Good Friday</i>
March 31	<i>Easter</i>
April 8 (Mon.)	Senate reconvenes
May 27 - 31	Senate not in session
May 27	<i>Memorial Day (observed)</i>
June 3 (Mon.)	Senate reconvenes
July 1 - 5	Senate not in session
July 4	<i>Independence Day</i>
July 8 (Mon.)	Senate reconvenes
August 5 - September 2	Senate not in session (August Recess)
September 2	<i>Labor Day</i>
September 3 (Tues.)	Senate reconvenes
September 16 (Mon.)	Yom Kippur (NO VOTES)
October 4	Target adjournment