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by e3000b.state.ms.us (8.10.0/8.10.0) with SMTP id f91HtHc27158
for <governor@governor.state.ms.us>; Mon, 1 Oct 2001 12:55:17 -0500 (CDT)
Received: from Aquarius2.ecs.org ([63.173.67.19])
by mx1.its.state.ms.us (8.10.0/8.10.0) with SMTP id f91Hr8L04172
for <governor@governor.state.ms.us>; Mon, 1 Oct 2001 12:53:08 -0500 (CDT)
Received: by Aquarius2.ecs.org (Lotus SMTP MTA v4.6.1 (569.2 2-6-1998)) id 87256AD8.006034E3 ; Mon, 1 Oct 2001 11:30:49 -0600
X-Lotus-FromDomain: ECS
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Message-ID: <87256AD8.005FBB6D.00@Aquarius2.ecs.org>
Date: Mon, 1 Oct 2001 11:25:39 -0600
Subject: ECS e-Clips 10/01/01
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Disposition: inline

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ARIZONA REPUBLIC

"Smaller Classes Come at High Cost"

A study last year by Arizona's Joint Legislative Budget Committee, based on 1999 figures, estimated it would cost the state \$442 million in the first year to reduce average class sizes to 17 students from 22 in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

"Teacher Quality Board Formed"

Leaders of a prominent education reform group are creating a teacher certification board to help lure highly skilled people to the classroom and boost the quality of the teaching pool. Armed with a \$5 million federal grant, the Education Leaders Council, a coalition of reform-minded school superintendents from nine states, including Arizona, has joined the National Council on Teacher Quality to start the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

"State Lawmakers Buck Bush Education Plan"

The National Conference of State Legislatures has informed Congress that the September 11 terror attacks persuaded it to oppose President Bush's "seriously and perhaps irreparably flawed" education plan. The NCSL letter lists nine objections, the most serious of which is: "The testing requirement at the heart of [Bush's plan] is an egregious example of top-down, one-size-fits-all federal reform."

DETROIT NEWS

"Requests for Student Information Stir Concern"

The huge dragnet cast in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks is ensnaring dozens of students on college campuses, where law enforcement officials are seeking information from normally confidential student

files. Under normal circumstances, most student information is confidential and released only with student consent. But the 27-year-old federal law that protects the privacy of student records has several exceptions, including a provision that permits institutions to release confidential student data without student or parental notice during a "health or safety emergency."

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

"Public Schools Propose Online Charter Schools"

Two traditional Minnesota school districts are filing revolutionary plans with the state education department -- plans that challenge basic ideas of how schools teach children and how the state pays for public education. The districts would be among the first in Minnesota to fully link a traditional district, a charter school and the Internet to reach kids beyond their buildings and even district boundaries.

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

"Behavior Treatment Advised for ADHD"

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued its first guidelines for treating attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, suggesting that stimulant drugs may be most effective but that behavior techniques should also be used. The academy said the guidelines are needed because ADHD is the most common neurobehavioral disorder in childhood and because pediatricians often are the first medical professionals who encounter afflicted children.

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To sign up a friend, send us his or her name, title, organization and e-mail address.