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Welcome to the "e-Connection" from the
EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES. Each
week, we will send you a brief e-mail with links to
key education information. Please give us feedback
by replying to this e-mail.

Highlights of this issue:

- * WHAT STATES ARE DOING: New York/certified teachers, Virginia/planning time, Massachusetts/math framework
 - * GOOD READS: Southern states, children and families, Black America
 - * ECS NEWS: New grants, Steering Committee Meeting
 - * OTHER USEFUL WEB SITES: Political campaign, education issues, college videos
- *****

WHAT STATES ARE DOING

In an effort to attract better-qualified teachers to NEW YORK City's worst schools, Chancellor Harold Levy and the United Federation of Teachers have agreed to a \$44,000 starting salary for experienced teachers who transfer from private and parochial schools or other public school districts and agree to work in the city's most-troubled schools. The salary is an increase of \$9,000 over the previous salary offered and follows a ruling requiring the city to place only certified teachers in low-performing schools.
<http://www.nycenet.edu/NEWS/PRESS/DEFAULT.HTM>
(select related articles from lefthand box)

VIRGINIA is requiring local school boards to ensure that elementary school teachers have at least three hours a week for planning time.
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/PolicyPub/legis98/billsum.pdf>
(Click on HB 1517)

The MASSACHUSETTS State Board of Education has approved a revised mathematics curriculum framework for grades preK-12. The framework emphasizes problem solving, communicating, reasoning and proof, making connections and using representations.
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/math00/72600.doc>

GOOD READS

SOUTHERN STATES are making progress in getting more children ready for 1st grade by providing state-funded prekindergarten programs and making sure young children receive all recommended immunizations. Even so, there still is work to be done, says a new Southern Regional Education Board report. "Getting Children Ready for the First Grade" looks at how far Southern states have come, describes their efforts, shares examples of successful programs and offers guidelines for state leaders.

<http://www.sreb.org/Main/EducationPolicy/Benchmarks2000/First%20Grade.pdf>

To de-mystify federal programs, the Institute for Educational Leadership Policy Exchange is publishing on its Web site "FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES: A Tool for Connecting Programs to People." Produced by the Congressional Research Service, this report describes details about 140 major federal programs. The report can help policymakers, administrators and concerned citizens identify issues and see the many systems that affect children and their families.

http://www.policyexchange.iel.org/pubs/Federal_Programs_for_Children.html

While higher standards have increased education expectations for students, it's time for adults to be accountable and ensure that all children receive what it takes to learn, says "The State of Black America 1999." The report looks at cultural issues, policy challenges and socioeconomic trends and how they affect AFRICAN AMERICANS. To read the foreword:

<http://www.nul.org/soba/soba.pdf>

To order, call 212-558-5316.

ECS NEWS

ECS has received a \$150,000 grant from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation to support the "EARLY LEARNING: Improving Results for Young Children" initiative, under the leadership of ECS chairman Jeanne Shaheen, governor of New Hampshire. The grant will support action-oriented regional workshops and state meetings bringing together policymakers, education practitioners, child care providers, business leaders and others over the next two years. For more information, contact: Kristi Sarchet at ksarchet@ecs.org or Gerrit Westervelt at gwestervelt@ecs.org

The IBM Corporation has given ECS an equipment grant of nearly \$10,000 to support ECS' TECHNOLOGY infrastructure.

The ECS Spring STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING will be held April 4 - 7, 2001, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For more information, contact Dara Piltz at dpiltz@ecs.org.

ECS PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

ECS is beginning the second year of a project sponsored by the GE Fund to track the PROGRESS OF EDUCATION REFORM. Six times a year, we look

at a particular aspect of school reform and provide a brief (4-8 page) summary of what is known (and not known) about it. The next issue kicks off a three-part series on teacher quality.
<http://www.ecs.org/ecs/ecsweb.nsf/e-connection/ECS%20e-Connection>

OTHER USEFUL WEB SITES

See how the POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS are playing out nationally and in your own state by signing on to Voter.com. The site offers personalized content, including specific candidates, issues and causes; information about pending legislation; up-to-the-minute political news, led by Carl Bernstein; and an online Activism Center where you can start (or join) a cause online.
<http://connect.onedemocracy.com:80/kc12318302.121.0.129>

Want to check out a college without going there or ordering a videotape? Interactive COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY VIDEOS has added more than 3,000 videos since its launch on June 1 and is adding more weekly. If the school you want isn't there yet, you may request it.
<http://www.icuv.com>

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