ASCD in Action

FOCUS AREAS OF ASCD LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Education and Care of Young Children. After considering population, social, and learning trends, ASCD identified the education and care of young children as a major program emphasis in its strategic plan. The topic will be the theme of a conference planned for December 9–11, 1987. Information will be reported in ASCD *Update*. Project Facilitator: Cynthia Warger, Director of Program Development.

Teaching Thinking. A major emphasis in ASCD's current program is teaching thinking. Some 27 education organizations convened by ASCD are collaborating on several projects, including development of a framework for curriculum and staff development. The product of that effort, *Dimensions of Thinking*, will be published as a comprehensive member book later this year. Other goals of the collaborative include working with publishers to improve textbooks and tests, encouraging needed research, and incorporating the teaching of thinking in teacher education. ASCD members may join a national network by sending a check for $10 payable to ASCD Network on Teaching Thinking to John Barell, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, Executive Editor.

Leadership/Supervision Task Force. With its first meeting in September, this group began a three-year evaluation of existing ASCD services in supervision and planning improvement activities. It will consider developing a plan to recognize proficiencies in the specialized areas of curriculum and supervision. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

Restructuring the Teaching Profession. An expert panel will meet in 1987 to advise ASCD on the training, professional development, role definition, incentive structures, and evaluation of teachers. The panel will help ASCD develop a plan for activities in these areas through 1990. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. ASCD is currently sponsoring ten networks. They include: Arts in Education, Clearinghouse on Learning Styles and Brain Behavior, Staff Development, Northwest Vermont Outcomes-Based Mastery, ASCD Educational Futurists, Thinking Skills, Teachers of Curriculum, Equity Issues and Women in Educational Leadership, Instructional Supervision, and Social Issues. Any ASCD member may join. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

Curriculum Trends Studies. ASCD has undertaken a series of longitudinal studies of elementary, middle, and secondary school curriculum trends that will be repeated in five-year cycles. The elementary study and the secondary study were reported in *Curriculum Update* in April 1985 and August 1986. For copies of the reports, send $1 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the ASCD Fulfillment Department. A study of middle level schools is underway. Results will be available at the Boston 1988 Annual Conference. Project Facilitator: Helené Hodges, Director of Research and Information.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

See page 33 for NCSI schedule.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Policy Analysis. A new policy analysis panel has begun examining issues of religion in the curriculum. Panel members include O. L. Davis, Texas; Edward Jenkinson, Indiana; Lee Smith, Minnesota; Timothy Smith, Florida; James Squire, Massachusetts; Carol Wilson, Colorado; and Mark Yudof, Texas. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

CONSORTIUMS

Elementary Consortium on Teaching Thinking. Teams representing 26 schools from across the nation met in Alexandria in February and will meet in San Francisco in October as part of their two-year effort to learn more about teaching thinking in the elementary curriculum. Each school will prepare its own plan; ASCD does not expect a uniform program. Reports of consortium meetings will be published in *Update*, and a book is planned later. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, Executive Editor.

Middle School Futures Planning Consortium. In October, 25 middle-level schools from around the nation launched a two-year effort to enhance the strategic-planning capability of middle school faculties, assisting them to design middle school education appropriate to the future lives of students. Each school will produce a long-range plan that focuses on: (1) organizing the school, (2) improving the core curriculum, (3) planning for sustained improvement of teaching, and (4) making better use of educational technology. Project Facilitator: Paul George, University of Florida.

High School Futures Consortium. Applications are now being processed for the High School Futures Planning Consortium, in which 25 high schools will be selected to begin a two-year project to train school teams in strategic planning. Application deadline was April 6, and the winning schools will be announced in May. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Videotapes

Strategic Planning and Leadership. This new tape demystifies the planning process and shows how three school districts (Detroit, Ft. Wayne, and Placentia, California) have used strategic planning to bridge the gap between long-range planning and the everyday school management decisions. The video is accompanied by *Guide to Strategic Planning for Educators* by Shirley McCune. $225 ASCD members; $260 nonmembers.

Training Materials

Tactics for Thinking. A comprehensive program developed by Bob Marzano and Daisy Arredondo for training teachers of all grade levels and subject areas in the teaching of 22 thinking skills, or mental tactics. Sold separately: Trainer's Manual, $35; Teacher's Manual, $12; complementary videotapes, $495 for ASCD members, $545 nonmembers.

Teaching Strategies Library. A compilation of instructional techniques that teachers have found most useful in working with students. The first four strategies currently being offered are *mastery lecture, concept attainment, concept formation,* and *peer practice*. When completed, the library will feature a total of 16 strategies. Trainer's Manual and videotapes are available to ASCD members for $795, nonmembers for $895.

Books

Social Issues and Education: Challenge and Responsibility, edited by Alex Molnar. Believing "educators must 'see through myth . . . and say what we see,' the authors provide perspectives on nine areas of concern, including gay and lesbian students, social attitudes in textbooks, equity, literacy, ethnic diversity, and more. 611-86048. $9.75.

Leadership: Examining the Elusive, edited by Linda Sheive and Marian Schoenheit. The 1987 ASCD yearbook offers organizational and personal perspectives on the work of leaders. Contributors include Terrence Deal, June Gabler, Pat Guild, Thomas Sergiovanni, Thomas Green, and others. (610-87003) $13.00.

UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

1988, Boston, 12–15 March
1989, Orlando, 11–14 March
1990, San Antonio, 3–6 March
1991, San Francisco, 16–19 March
1992, New Orleans, 6–10 March

For project, product, or conference information, write or call ASCD, 125 North West St., Alexandria, VA 22314-2798, (703) 549-9110.

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