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 of "public school programs for four- and five-year-old children" will be the theme of a mini-conference planned for 9–11 December 1987 in Alexandria, Virginia. Audiotapes of the major presentations will be available. An expert panel will meet in January 1988 to consider the issues around programming for this age group. Project Facilitator: Cynthia Warger, Director of Program Development.

Teaching Thinking. More than 25 education organizations convened by ASCD have agreed to work together to promote teaching thinking in schools. In January ASCD will publish one of the products of that effort, *Dimensions of Thinking*, as a comprehensive member book. During the 1987-88 year, the collaborative will hold several small meetings to develop position statements on such matters as administrative leadership, teacher education, instructional materials, and program evaluation. Results will be reported in ASCD publications. 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. The Executive Council has authorized a task force, chaired by Gerald Firth, to develop a plan for recognizing key competencies in supervision. The first meeting was held in November. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

Restructuring Education. This year ASCD is planning a consortium of schools engaged in restructuring education, and will focus several NCSIs and publications on this area of the strategic plan. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. ASCD is currently sponsoring thirteen networks: Arts in Education, Network and Clearinghouse for Cooperative Learning, Clearinghouse on Learning/Teaching Styles and Brain Behavior, Curriculum Teachers Network, Designing District Evaluation Instruments for Math & Science Process Skills, Educational Futurists, Instructional Supervision, Network for Equity Issues and Women in Educational Leadership, Network for Self-Directed Learning, Network on Teaching Thinking, Northwest Vermont Outcomes-Based Mastery Network, Social Issues and Education Network, and Staff Development Network. 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 national study of middle-level schools is under way. 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 17 for NCSI schedule.

CONSORTIUMS

Elementary Consortium on Teaching Thinking. With ASCD encouragement, teams representing 26 elementary schools from across the nation are engaged in a two-year effort to improve the teaching of thinking in their schools. Highlights of Consortium meetings will be reported in *Update*, and a book is planned later. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, Executive Editor.

Middle School Futures Consortium. Last October, 25 middle-level schools from around the nation launched a two-year effort to assist middle school faculties in designing education appropriate to the future lives of students. Each school will produce a long-range plan for organizing the school, improving the core curriculum, improving teaching, and making better use of educational technology. Project Facilitator: Paul George, University of Florida.

High School Futures Consortium. Teams from the 27 high schools selected to participate began training in Colorado in July to develop individual long-range plans for their schools in the areas of curriculum, school organization, improving teaching, and the use of educational technology. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Videodisc Training Resources

Teaching Episodes: Resources for the Analysis of Instruction. Using a new technology that provides more vivid visuals and easier, quicker access to video material, this videodisc gives pre- and in-service trainers a flexible resource to help identify and model teaching behaviors and lesson plans that promote learning. The disc has three filmed "episodes" (actual classroom lessons) with over 40 specific examples of effective instruction that the trainer can index and then call up immediately with the use of a remote control keypad. Plus, two separate audio tracks provide the actual soundtrack and the teacher's thoughts and explanations about the filmed classroom sequence. The disc and accompanying Leader's Guide sell for $250 to members and $295 to nonmembers.

Videotape Training Materials

Teacher Performance Evaluation Cycle

This video training program provides a research-based procedure for formative and summative evaluation, demonstrates the procedure in a real classroom, then allows the trainees to practice the evaluation procedure during selected teaching episodes and compare their ratings to those of an expert panel and national norms. The two-tape set introducing the evaluation procedure sells for $395 to ASCD members and $445 to nonmembers. The four-tape set of teaching episodes sells for $395 to members and $445 to nonmembers. Tapes are accompanied by Leader's Guides and Instructional Materials Booklets.

Another Set of Eyes. This new two-part program is designed for use in workshops and explains techniques for turning classroom observations into learning experiences for teachers by providing them with specific and nonjudgmental information to help them relate more effectively to their students. Facilitator's Manual and both tapes available to ASCD members for $395, nonmembers for $445.

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 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314-2798, (703) 549-9110.

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