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" was the theme of a mini-conference December 9–11, 1987, in Alexandria, Virginia. Audiotapes of the major presentations are available. A second mini-conference is planned for December 1988.

An expert panel has met to consider the issues around programming for this age group. Their report will be included in a book on early childhood education due out in Spring 1988. ASCD will begin a consortium of school districts engaged in developing quality programs for four- and five-year-olds this fall. (Applications are available from the Project Facilitator.) Project Facilitator: Cynthia Warger, Director of Program Development.

Teaching Thinking. Some 28 education organizations convened by ASCD are working together to promote development of student thinking. ASCD recently published one of the products of that effort, *Dimensions of Thinking*. The Collaborative is also sponsoring a series of small conferences on thinking skills in textbooks, teacher education, and assessment. Later, ASCD will publish state-of-the-art papers resulting from the conferences.

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. ASCD will begin a consortium of schools engaged in restructuring this fall. A special mini-conference (November 1988), several NCSIs, and publications are also planned on this topic. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. ASCD is currently sponsoring 13 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 Department. A national study of middle-level schools is under way. Results will be available in Summer 1988. Project Facilitator: Helené Hodges, Director of Research and Information.

Policy Analysis. A policy analysis on moral education will be published this May. Panel members include James Beane, St. Bonaventure University, Bonaventure, N.Y.; Marilyn Braveman, American Jewish Committee, New York, N.Y.; Barbara T. Jackson, D.C. Public Schools, Washington, D.C.; Merrill Harmin, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Ill.; James Leming, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill.; Thomas Lickona, State University of New York, Cortland, N.Y.; Allan Lockwood (Reviewer), University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc.; Kevin Ryan (Chair), Boston University, Boston Mass.; Ed Wynne, University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill.; and Sally Zakariya (Editor), *American School Board Journal*, Alexandria, Va. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

See page 95 for NCSI schedule.

CONSORTIUMS

Elementary Consortium on Teaching Thinking. With ASCD encouragement, teams representing 24 elementary schools from across the nation are engaged in a two-year effort to improve the teaching of thinking in their schools. Each school is expected to prepare its own long-range plan. 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

Videotape Training Materials

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

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. Switchboard hours are 9-5, Monday through Friday.

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