
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: BRIEFING BOOK FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT
DATE: 10/8/01
CC: FILE

Attached is your briefing book for the National Education Summit. Tuesday's activities will include plenary sessions, while Wednesday's will consist of small group sessions and remarks by President Bush (invited).

Statement of Principles

Governors will be asked to adopt the Proposed Statement of Principles (Tab V of your briefing book), which will be introduced at Tuesday's 3:45 Plenary Session and adopted at Wednesday's closing session (which is currently scheduled after we depart for your meeting in DC). This summit has the goals of excellence and equity in our nation's schools. These principles seek to improve performance across the board while closing the achievement gap via the three principles of measuring results, strengthening accountability and improving teaching.

I participated in a conference call for Governors' Education Policy Advisors two weeks ago where several concerns were identified regarding the principles. Our comments were taken into consideration, but the following points are still of concern to NGA (NOTE: I have highlighted these on your copy.):

- p. 2, Transparency Section: Regarding the release of questions from previous years' test, the draft version stated "The best way for states to ensure transparency is to annually release publicly some (or all) test items...." ACHIEVE deleted "some (or all)" so that the sentence now reads "The best way for states to ensure transparency is to publicly release questions from previous years' tests," which raises the question of the number of test items that will be released.
- p. 2, Comparability Section: In our conference call, ACHIEVE reps stated that this section is seeking to ensure testing alignment through grades. NGA fears that this language could put governors in a difficult position with the press since NGA policy is asking for a combination of state and local testing.

- pp. 3-4, Sanctions and Shared Accountability Sections: Several education advisors had suggested that these two sections be combined, as the subject areas are interwoven, and that the combined section also incorporate incentives. The final draft does not combine these sections.
- p. 4, Recruitment and Preparation: This is a new section and its focus seems to be on alternative pathways or alternative route certification. It would be more advantageous for the principles to encourage governors to continue focusing on qualified teachers.
- p. 5, Matching Strength to Needs Section: Several of us raised concern at the collective bargaining language, which remains in the final draft. You'll also notice that the section suggests state leaders offer salary bonuses and other incentives to attract principals and teachers to schools with the highest poverty and under-achievement rates.

Participants

I have put a copy of the most recent list I have of governors that are planning on attending the summit in the front pocket of your notebook. As you can see, this list is a month old and was prepared prior to your registration, but it will give you some idea of which governors should be in Palisades.

I also received email from Betty Castor, NBPTS Executive Director, stating that she will be participating in the Summit. I have checked with Mark Musick and he will not be able to attend due to jury duty.

Technology Demonstrations

You will have the opportunity to visit technology demonstrations during Tuesday evening's reception (5:15-7:00) prior to dinner. The Grow Network sent us preliminary materials, so you might want to be sure to visit their booth.