

2001 State Education Initiatives

Alabama

Accountability

- Governor Don Siegelman created the Governor's Award for Academic Improvement to help Alabama's struggling schools increase their academic status. The award offers grants from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to reward schools that meet and exceed academic standards. Grants go directly to the school and are used to invest in instructional improvement programs and/or materials to be voted on by the teachers.
- Alabama will also send a School Accountability Report Card to each child's parents. The Report Card contains information including student performance on testing, dropout rates, attendance rates, graduation rates, college attendance rates, school safety and discipline reports, and information about school construction.
- Governor Siegelman also approved legislation requiring all new superintendents to pass a course in financial management and education law before taking office. In addition, the bill requires the State Board of Education to establish provisions for ensuring such accountability from current superintendents.

Early Childhood Education

- Governor Siegelman secured funds to expand Alabama's early learning program from eight to 43 sites throughout the state. Thirteen additional early learning sites will be supported through a federal grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Currently, eight sites are funded through a public/private partnership between business and state agencies.

Finance

- Governor Siegelman signed a school bond measure for K-12 and higher education, providing \$110 million more for Alabama's schools.

Literacy

- The Governor approved funds to expand the nationally recognized Alabama Reading Initiative to 588 schools across the state. The Initiative is dedicated to improving reading instruction and ultimately achieving 100 percent literacy among public school students. The Initiative also will expand the number of reading specialists from 100 to 134 in order to work directly with school systems participating in the program.

School Safety

- Governor Siegelman will continue his effort to place video cameras in more than 40 middle and high schools across Alabama through the Private Eyes Education Program. Schools can receive up to \$10,000 for video camera installation by providing an implementation plan and 20 percent matching funds. Priority will be given to those schools that demonstrate the most need. In the 2000-2001 school year, Governor Siegelman provided video cameras for more than 130 schools.

Teachers

- The 2002 Alabama budget includes funds to support Governor Siegelman's proposal to provide \$4,000 loan/scholarships to 100 prospective math and science teachers entering their junior year in college who agree to work in high need areas through out the state. Prospective teachers who join the Governor's Reach and Teach initiative will be eligible to receive loans for their senior

year if they have achieved junior status and have been admitted unconditionally to an approved teacher education program in mathematics, general science, biology, chemistry or physics. Students who then agree to work in an identified high need area for five years will be granted loan forgiveness.

- The Governor's Rewarding Excellence for Teachers program will give a \$5,000 grant and a \$5,000 salary increase to any teacher who achieves certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The Governor's program also encourages teachers to become mentors to other teachers seeking National Board certification in their communities.

Technology

- Governor Siegelman has set a goal of providing all students in the state of Alabama with high-speed broadband access to the Internet in their schools by 2003, and the 2002 budget provides funding to begin connecting schools. Currently, more than 50 percent of Alabama schools only have dial-up Internet services or no connectivity at all.

Alaska

Accountability

- Governor Tony Knowles strengthened his longstanding school improvement plan, the Quality Schools Initiative (QSI), by advocating for fair and responsible testing timelines. Now, rather than the 2002 deadline earlier approved by the Legislature, it is the class of 2004 that will be required to pass basic skills tests in reading, writing and math in order to graduate. Knowles argued that the original deadline was too early, threatening the entire school accountability movement in Alaska because students, teachers and schools hadn't been given the time or resources to meet higher academic standards. The Governor also successfully changed earlier law by insisting that special needs students are given an alternative route to a diploma by meeting higher standards developed in Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Governor Knowles' QSI, which became law in 1998, establishes higher standards for students, teachers and schools.

Funding

- Governor Knowles believes the QSI will be successful only if schools have sufficient resources. Before the 2001 session, he appointed an Education Funding Task Force of business, elected and education leaders. He strongly supported its recommendation for \$45 million in new school investments this year. The 2001 Legislature approved about two-thirds of his request, \$17 million of which were new state funds. The Governor will continue to support the Task Force's call for \$100 million in new school investments over five years.

Early Childhood Education

- Governor Knowles convinced lawmakers to approve \$350,000 for state expansions to Head Start. He has long advocated for this program, which currently serves less than one-fourth of the eligible population in just over 100 communities in Alaska.

Higher Education

- Governor Knowles secured \$11.4 million in new investments for Year 2 of the University of Alaska's three-year improvement plan.

Programs

- The Governor sponsored and signed legislation to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans who left school to serve their nation, citing the new law as an important recognition for these servicemen and women and their families.

School Construction

- Governor Knowles' Administration sought funds to build four new schools and complete 46 major repair projects. Lawmakers approved the four new schools - plus planning money for a fifth - and 30 major repair projects.

Arizona

Accountability

- Voter-approved Proposition 301, which began as a legislative proposal spearheaded by Governor Jane Dee Hull and former Superintendent of Public Instruction Lisa Graham Keegan, provides funding to develop a statewide school performance measurement system. This system will include a computerized database of information on the academic achievement levels of individual students, which will improve the state's ability to keep data on highly mobile students.
- Governor Hull issued a 2001 executive order establishing a task force on efficiency and accountability in K-12 education. The task force is comprised of business and education representatives and will review issues relating to school funding and the implementation of Proposition 301, specifically the development of a teacher pay-for-performance plan.

Finance

- Arizona passed Proposition 301, the Governor's proposal for a 20-year increase of six-tenths of 1 percent in the state's 5 percent sales tax earmarked for education. The same law also calls for an automatic 2 percent annual increase for Arizona schools that forced lawmakers to provide an additional \$66 million for education in each of the next two fiscal years.
- The budget signed by the Governor also contained \$6.95 billion of the \$18.7 billion biennial budget for precollegiate education, with \$3.37 billion in the 2001-02 fiscal year and \$3.58 billion in 2002-03.

School Construction

- New legislation created an "emergency fund" managed by the state School Facilities Board for emergency deficiency corrections in public school buildings. Previously, the procedure for identifying and funding unanticipated capital projects was administered at the local level. Also, the School Facilities Board is now allowed to procure and manage projects on behalf of school districts to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness in correcting deficiencies and building new schools.

Teachers

- Also under voter-approved Proposition 301, which began as a legislative proposal spearheaded by Governor Hull and former Superintendent of Public Instruction Keegan, school districts will develop their own teacher performance measures. Forty percent of funds are set aside for performance-based incentives, while 20 percent is earmarked for increases in teachers' base pay.

Arkansas

Accountability

- Under Governor Mike Huckabee, the state increased the scope of Arkansas' Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP), expanding the K-4th grade literacy and math skills program to 5th-8th grades. ACTAAP will fully implement end-of-course testing for high school students this year. Accountability is driven by benchmark tests at grades four, six, eight, and end-of-course and reported along with the standardized tests scores on the school report card. School report cards are now available on-line, as well as mailed to parents.

Choice

- The Charter School law was amended to allow a "limited charter school" for districts desiring to implement alternative teacher compensation programs.

Finance

- Although most state agencies in Arkansas received at least a 5% cut in general revenues, higher education maintained most funding levels and received several modest gains. The Governor expects higher education to receive an overall 3.4% increase in operating funds for FY02.
- The state will boost financial aid allocations to accommodate the increase in qualified applicants to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship and the Distinguished Governors Scholars programs. Eligibility for these scholarships will be tightened in upcoming years.

Programs

- New legislation will create a pilot project to place family service workers in schools, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.

Teachers

- Governor Huckabee won approval for a \$3000 pay increase for all teachers over the next biennium, his top priority during the 2001 session. To recruit and retain qualified teachers, Arkansas also will expand its certification reciprocity and non-traditional licensure, increase the number of Teach for America teachers, and provide incentives for retired teachers to return to the classroom. The state's non-traditional licensure program now recognizes life experiences as credit toward certification and provides for a program of study tailored to individual candidates. Accredited teacher college graduates from other states now receive automatic certification reciprocity, provided they passed the test required from that state and successfully completed a criminal background check. Reciprocity is also provided for teachers who have National Board Certification or who have participated in Teach for America. Retired teachers in academically distressed districts or with expertise in shortage areas (math, science, foreign language, special education, English as a second language), can now retire and return to teaching for full salary in addition to retirement benefits. Finally, Governor Huckabee approved the New Teacher Project to work with schools in developing recruitment strategies for teachers.
- New teachers, both traditional and non-traditional, will be supported through mentor teachers. Mentor teacher will receive \$1200 and his/her school will receive an additional \$800 to support the mentor and new teacher.

Technology

- Governor Huckabee promoted and signed a bill to create the “Committed to Education” license plate. The funds raised through the sale of these plates will build a fund to provide, with additional support from private contributions, a personal computer for every sixth grader who has maintained a proficient or advanced status on the 4th and 6th grade benchmark exams.
- Governor Huckabee increased funding to EAST (Environmental and Spacial Technology) labs in schools, expanding the program to include junior high school and middle school students.

California

Accountability

- Governor Gray Davis allocated \$161 million for the Immediate Intervention / Underperforming Schools Program. Governor Davis also signed a bill establishing the \$200 million High Priority Schools Grant Program, providing up to \$400 per pupil to improve student achievement in low-performing schools.

Extra Learning Opportunities

- Governor Davis allotted \$29.7 million to expand the After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program. A Before School component is also included in this funding.

Finance

- The 2001-2002 Budget increases California's investment in K-12 education by \$2.5 billion. Education funding has increased by \$9.1 billion since Governor Davis took office, and schools in California have benefited from the largest three-year increase for education in state history.
- The California budget includes \$97.9 million for Special Education. The University of California's General Fund budget increased by 5.27 percent, and the California State University received a 5.79% General Fund increase. The total funding for California Community Colleges increases six percent. The Governor also included \$40 million to increase funding to school districts that have revenue limit funding below the statewide average.

Higher Education

- The University of California Board of Regents approved a new admissions policy designed to broaden college access and increase minority-student representation. Specifically, the University will now guarantee a spot at one of its nine campuses to students in the top 12.5 percent of every high-school graduating class in the state if they successfully complete two years at a community college first. Last year, the University agreed to automatically admit the top 4 percent of every high-school graduating class as freshmen. Under this new "dual admissions" plan, students who rank between 4 percent and 12.5 percent academically in their high-school class - but may not have the standardized test scores needed for traditional admission and may attend disadvantaged high schools that have historically sent few students to the University of California - will be offered provisional admission to a specific University of California campus. Such students will first be required to complete an approved two-year course of study and maintain at least a 2.4 GPA at a California community college.

The change will take effect with the incoming freshmen class in 2003. It is expected to initially add 1,000 transfer students to the 9,000 who currently transfer to the University each year.

Eventually, it is expected to produce 3,500 additional transfer students per year. The program is projected to cost about \$2.5 million, primarily to fund university counselors to work with students at the community colleges.

- The California budget also includes \$57 million to make salaries of part-time faculty at community college comparable to full-time faculty salaries.

Programs

- The Governor included \$250 million in the Budget to help schools and county offices of education with energy costs and energy conservation measures.

Special Education

- Governor Davis signed a bill which paves the way for school districts to receive \$520 million plus \$100 million annually in additional funding for special education and other programs. The bill, sponsored by the Governor, puts into law a settlement reached last November between the state and California school districts, ending a 20-year dispute over state funding of special education programs. In addition to providing an ongoing \$100 million in annual funding for special education purposes, the bill annually appropriates \$25 million a year through fiscal year 2010-11 in discretionary funding for school districts. It provides \$270 million on a one-time basis for school districts, county offices of education and special education local plan areas.

Teachers

- Governor Davis included \$80 million in the California budget for teachers and teaching aides to attend intensive Mathematics and Reading Professional Development programs. A total of 249,000 K-12 teachers and 22,000 teaching aides will receive 40 hours of instruction and 80 hours of follow up training. Schools will receive \$2,500 for each teacher trained and \$1,000 for each teaching aide trained.

The California budget includes \$15 million for the first year of the three-year Principal Training Program. Schools will receive \$3,000 per principal trained, which must be matched by \$1,000 from the school district.

Technology

- Governor Davis won \$10 million in funding for the first year of a two-year project to help establish five High-Tech High Schools throughout the state.

Colorado

Accountability

- Governor Bill Owens signed a bill authorizing school accountability reports that rate schools from “excellent” to “unsatisfactory.” The first report cards were issued in September 2001.

Charter Schools

- For the first time in the state’s history, Colorado appropriated money for the construction of charter schools and allowed charter schools to participate in local bond issues.

Early Childhood Education

- Governor Owens signed a bill authorizing a \$6 million five-year pilot program to study the impact of full-day kindergarten education programs on improving student achievement. The pilot

project – Colorado’s first full-day kindergarten – will be available only to students in low-performing schools. About 1,000 children in 17 schools will be able to take advantage of the program. A review of the program's effectiveness in improving student achievement is required by December 2005.

Finance

- Colorado increased general fund education spending by almost six percent. Taking advantage of a constitutional amendment approved last year by voters that mandates an annual increase in education spending at the rate of inflation plus one percent, the state will spend nearly \$36 million over two years for textbooks and kindergarten classes.

Higher Education

- Beginning in 2003, all freshmen enrolling in Colorado public colleges and universities will be able to transfer completed coursework within a defined set of core general education credits to any other public higher education institution in the state. House Bill 1263, signed by Governor Owens, also requires the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to establish a state standard of 120 credit hours for a baccalaureate degree.

Teachers

- Colorado added more than \$51 million over four years for teacher pay incentives in low-performing schools, including: merit pay bonuses for outstanding teaching; recruitment bonuses for teachers in low-achieving schools and hard-to-recruit subjects; \$30,000 block grants for struggling schools; and \$2,000-a-year forgiveness of student loans for teachers over three years.

Violence

- Governor Owens signed a bill requiring school districts to develop anti-bullying policies and to include information about those policies in their annual reports to the State Board of Education.

Connecticut

Accountability

- Each local school board is now required to develop rigorous new graduation competencies. The competencies shall specify the basic skills necessary for graduation and include a process to assess a student’s level of competency in such skills. The assessment criteria shall include the results of the tenth grade state-wide mastery examination. Further, boards of education shall identify a course of study for those students who have not successfully completed the assessment criteria to assist such students in reaching a satisfactory level of competency prior to graduation.

Curriculum

- Connecticut adopted an official state policy of supporting and expanding international educational programs. The Commissioner of Education has been directed to establish an advisory committee to promote international education opportunities for students and staff in grades K-12.

Finance

- Connecticut increased the portion of state aid from 42% to 43% of total educational expenditures. State aid was also increased for inter-district magnet schools and other inter-district programs designed to reduce racial and ethnic isolation.

School Construction

- The state provided funding for all requested new school construction and renovation projects. Over \$5 billion of school construction projects have been approved and are currently in progress.

Delaware

Accountability

- Governor Ruth Ann Minner stood by her pledge to move forward with the implementation of Delaware's student, school and professional accountability laws. However, she also kept her promise to fine-tune the laws to make them fairer to students. Delaware will now consider other indicators in addition to a student's score on the state test to determine whether a student is promoted to the next grade. The new law calls for districts to create Academic Review Committees, comprised of educators including the child's current teacher and at least one teacher from the next grade. The committee will review and approve additional indicators, which may include a district-administered assessment, end of course assessments, a student's classroom work products such as a major project, or a student's grades with evidence that demonstrates his or her ability to meet the standards. In all cases, these indicators must be aligned to the state content standards and must be approved by the Department of Education.

Charter Schools

- This year Delaware enacted legislation that helps to level the playing field between charter schools and regular public schools. The new law clarifies that charter school boards are subject to open meeting and record provisions under Delaware's freedom of information act. It gives charter school students the same rights of appeal to the State Board of Education for expulsion cases. The law requires that all teachers must have at least a bachelor's degree in the content area in which they teach if they have been exempted from full certification. Also, charter schools must now prove that they have met all the needs of students, educators and the schools before they can retain any profit. The new law develops a notification system which allows charter schools and affected public schools to work together more cooperatively. By February 1, charter schools must have enrolled 80 percent of their authorized student count and they must now notify public schools of the number and the names of the students who will be attending the charter schools. Charter school teachers who are on leave from a Delaware public school must also be notified by the charter school by March 1 as to whether or not their services will be retained the following year at the charter school. Those teachers must then inform the public schools by March 15 as to whether or not they wish to return from leave for the following school year. The law also shortens the amount of time a public school teacher may be on leave to teach in a charter school from three years to two years. The law requires that any charter school receiving state funds for special purposes (i.e., driver education, special education, etc.) must then use those funds for the stated purpose. Finally, the law allows public schools to be reimbursed on a pro-rata basis for students who return to regular public schools from charter schools after the school year commences.

Home schools

- Governor Minner signed a joint resolution creating a committee to examine home school issues. The committee is composed of home school advocates, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Childcare Licensing Section of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families, representatives of the Delaware Association of Independent Schools and members of the General Assembly. The committee is specifically charged with clearly defining home schools for the Delaware Code and appropriate reporting

requirements to the Department of Education. The committee will also consider and define how situations that deviate from traditional home schooling may require additional compliance with existing health and safety standards. The committee is to report its findings to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than March 1, 2002. The committee is not charged with discussing curriculum being used in home schools or how the curriculum is being taught. While the Governor recognizes and respects the rights of parents to teach their children what they choose in their own homes, she also recognizes the state's responsibility to ensure that health, safety and appropriate zoning laws are being followed with respect to numerous unrelated children in any given location.

Literacy

- Working under tightening budget constraints, Governor Minner made progress toward keeping her campaign promise to put reading specialists in every Delaware public elementary school. Fifty elementary schools began the 2001-2002 school year with an additional teaching position devoted to assisting struggling children with reading. The Governor intends to fund the remaining public elementary schools in her Fiscal 2003 budget. While the intent of the program is to provide certified reading specialists for every public elementary school, the program will begin with reading resource teachers who will be encouraged to obtain certification. These teachers are required to incorporate phonics and phonemic awareness into their instruction.

Teachers

- Governor Minner's Teacher Protection Act allows Delaware teachers to regain control of their classrooms by protecting them from the threat of frivolous lawsuits for disciplining students. Throughout her campaign, the Governor heard from teachers who worried that appropriately disciplining students with reasonable and minimal force might still lead to a lawsuit by students or parents. The new law allows for dismissal of suits where a teacher's actions do not meet the heightened legal standard of "shocking the conscience of a reasonable person."
- Governor Minner signed into law legislation intended to address a teacher shortage by permitting school districts to hire retired teachers for certain critical curricular areas. For a teacher to be eligible to teach, the district must first prove significant need to utilize this option and receive approval from the Department of Education. Retired teachers' pensions may not be affected positively or negatively by this plan, and retired teachers may not continue to accrue additional pension benefits.
- Delaware also passed legislation permitting educators on school trips to assist students in administering oral, topical or inhalant medications. This option is strictly voluntary for educators and permitted only after an educator has completed a State Board of Nursing-approved medication administration training program. Because many children require medication throughout the day, the state hopes this option will allow more children to participate in out-of-school learning experiences.

Florida

Choice

- Governor Jeb Bush signed into law a bill that allows the state's voucher program for disabled children to expand beyond its experimental stage. Florida's lesser-known voucher program, which enables disabled children to attend private school at the taxpayers' expense, will be available this year for about 340,000 disabled schoolchildren.

- The McKay Scholarship program started with two Sarasota children under a pilot program in 1999 and expanded to include nearly 1,000 children during the 2000-01 school year. Until now, participation has been limited by state law and because few parents of disabled children know about the program.

Governance

- Governor Bush approved a law authorizing him to appoint a seven-member board of education to oversee the state's entire education system. The so-called "K- 20" governance structure replaces a system in which separate boards governed pre-collegiate and higher education. Voters approved the referendum in November 1998, but the consent of the legislature and Governor was required for the changes to occur.
- Governor Bush announced the appointment of Sen. Jim Horne as Florida's first Secretary of Education and made appointments to the new seven-member Florida Board of Education. He also appointed members of the Council for Education Policy and Research, which will: conduct and review education research; provide independent analysis on education progress; and provide independent evaluation of statewide education issues.

Higher Education

- Governor Bush signed sweeping legislation creating a K-20 educational system. The legislation will change the state's education governance structure by: 1) abolishing the Board of Regents of the 10-institution State University System, as well as the State Board of Community Colleges; 2) creating a 7-member Board of Education, headed by an appointed Commissioner of Education, that will recommend budgets and have program authority for public elementary, secondary, and higher education in the state; 3) creating 13-member boards of trustees for each of the state's public universities; and 4) abolishing the state's Postsecondary Education Planning Council and replacing it with a 9-member Council for Education Policy Research and Improvement, appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders. The new law will also liberalize the standards by which community colleges in the state can offer baccalaureate degrees, deleting the requirement that community colleges partner with four-year institutions in offering the degrees.
- Governor Bush signed a bill that will create a corporate income tax credit for monetary donations to nonprofit scholarship funding organizations that provide scholarships to students from low-income families. The credit is equal to 100 percent of the contribution, but must not exceed 75 percent of the balance of taxes due after all other possible credits have been applied.

Teachers

- Governor Bush signed a bill that requires school districts to give hired teachers full credit for years of experience. Currently, a newly hired teacher with 20 years' experience in another district would be paid as if she had only seven years of experience. The new law eliminates artificial limits on transferable experience; it will encourage out-of-state teachers to come to Florida and encourage retired teachers to return to the classroom, getting full credit for all of their experience. Other provisions include a directive to the state's Department of Education to develop a long-range plan for recruitment and retention to bring the state closer to its goal of hiring 160,000 teachers in 10 years, and the creation of a part-time adjunct teaching certificate program for those who wish to teach part-time. The second new law will provide teachers with liability insurance to offset monetary damages from claims filed against them while on the job.

- A new Florida law creates new flexibility in the state’s Deferred Retirement Option Program for teachers, allowing teachers to work additional years before committing to the five-year retirement option.
- The new Barry Grunow Act, named for a slain Florida teacher, provides special benefits for any instructional staff member or school administrator who is killed or fatally injured on the job as a result of a violent, intentional act by another person. The bill provides \$75,000 to the decedent teachers' beneficiary; \$1,000 to be paid toward burial expenses; payment of health insurance premiums for the teacher's surviving spouse and dependent children; and a waiver of any state education fees for the teachers' children earning a bachelor's degree and/or a degree from a vocational-technical school.

Georgia

Accountability

- The “Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy” provides for a five-year phased-in end to social promotion. The policy creates a shared responsibility between the state and local boards of education to adopt policies that will end the practice by school year 2005-2006. This section, modeled on the Texas approach adopted in 1999, provides that students will not be promoted from grades 3, 5 and 8 if they do not pass the grade-level criterion-referenced reading assessment (plus math for grades 5 and 8). The plan provides for re-testing, parental notification, appeals process, and accelerated and additional instruction programs. The bill also creates a five-year “Georgia Closing the Achievement Gap Commission,” a 19-member group that will focus on strategies to close the achievement gap for at-risk students.

Early Childhood Education

- Governor Roy Barnes’s education reform package expands the Early Intervention Program to Grades 4-5 (as well as K-3) to provide specialized instruction in smaller classes to students who are determined to be performing below grade level.

With support from the legislature, private sector and Governor Barnes, the state launched its Georgia Early Learning Initiative (GELI), a public-private venture aimed at enhancing early educational opportunities for young children. GELI is a public-private partnership between the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, the Whitehead Foundation, and the Office of the Governor. GELI developed a series of recommendations into a long-term plan to improve the quality of early learning experiences. Governor Barnes won funding for many of the Phase I recommendations through his Fiscal 2002 budget, including \$6 million in appropriations for GELI. The initiative also has secured \$4.5 million in private sector donations. These combined Phase I funds will be used for three specific quality initiatives:

- The Early Care Education INCENTIVES\$ Program - a salary supplement program designed to encourage continued education and reduce staff turnover;
- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood in Georgia - a scholarship program to support early care and education professionals as they begin or continue their education in five counties; and
- Tiered Reimbursement - a differential reimbursement rate program that will be phased-in for centers and family childcare providers that achieve increased levels of quality.

Higher Education

- A new law increases HOPE scholarship eligibility for students at private institutions, making their eligibility consistent with that of students at public institutions. It also expands the eligibility

to seniors, who previously could not qualify for the scholarship if they had not qualified in their junior year.

School Construction

- A special \$468 million appropriation was approved for new school construction; a class size reduction measure that passed last year necessitated the construction funds. Most schools need more classrooms to meet the new class sizes that are being phased in over four years. In addition to this special appropriation, a regular appropriation of over \$200 million for normal school construction was funded making this the largest investment in school construction in Georgia's history. A new capital outlay for school construction will provide low wealth local school systems the option of a state grant of up to 95% of the state-eligible cost of construction.

Teachers

- An initiative to increase teachers' pursuit of National Board Certification provides state payment of a portion of the certification application fee, provided the teacher agrees to teach at least one year in Georgia.

Hawaii

Accountability

- Under new legislation and a \$500,000 appropriation, Hawaii will establish Professional Development Schools to address issues of standards-based education and teacher preparation.

Choice

- Hawaii Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano signed a bill to streamline the state's charter school application process by allowing the chartering board to grant provisional charters, giving applicants the time to meet all the final charter requirements. The bill also establishes a seven-member review panel to review applications and make recommendations to the board. The bill provides some assurance that money for charter schools will not come from other public schools; however, charters are no longer guaranteed the "small school subsidy" that helped pay for fixed positions such as school principals.

Finance

- Hawaii allocates nearly 50% of all State resources to elementary, secondary and higher education. For the 2001-02 fiscal year, the legislature approved \$1.32 billion for K-12 education—about \$30 million less than the Governor had requested but still far higher than the \$1.01 billion in the current fiscal year's budget.

School Construction

- Governor Cayetano signed legislation that will allow for the repair and maintenance of older schools in the state; provisions include school repair allocations and financial incentives to groups that provide in-kind services toward building repair. Under the Cayetano administration, more new schools were built than at any period in Hawaii history -- 13 in all.

Teachers

- Hawaii teachers were granted a 16% pay increase. Teacher salaries have risen dramatically under the Cayetano administration—from 24th in the country, to now ranking among the top 10.

- A new law created the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board to develop, implement and administer a \$190,000 program to support teachers applying for National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. Funds will provide for release days, facilitator and trainer stipends, training materials and transportation expenses. Hawaii teachers who obtain NBPTS certification may receive a \$5,000 pay differential for a maximum of ten years, in addition to a one-time reimbursement of \$2,500 for teachers who complete the application process.
- To address the teacher shortage, a new law provides financial support through the University of Hawaii to students who agree to teach in Hawaii's public schools. In addition, legislation was enacted which enables the State Department of Education to rehire retired teachers in identified shortage areas to serve as mentors for new teachers, while still continuing to receive retirement pay.

Idaho

Finance

- The appropriation for Public School Support totals \$933 million in General Funds, a 6.8 percent increase. While this represents a \$22.5 million reduction from the Governor Dirk Kempthorne's recommendation, it still creates the largest General Fund increase in six years. This appropriation provides funding for a 5.5 percent increase in base salaries for public school teachers, \$8 million to begin the implementation of Achievement Standards, and full funding for all statutorily required programs.

Higher Education

- The FY 2002 appropriation for the general education programs at the state's 4-year college and universities – the University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Boise State University and Lewis-Clark State College – is a 9.7 percent General Fund increase over the FY 2001 appropriation and a 9.5 percent increase in all funds. The FY 2002 appropriation for Community College Support amounts to \$20,581,400 in all General Funds. Not counting the \$3.2 million Property Tax Relief Fund shift, the community colleges budget is also a 9.7 percent General Fund increase over last year's appropriation.
- The state separately appropriated \$3.0 million for Idaho Promise Scholarship Category B awards. Freshmen entering the state's higher education system in the fall of 2001, after graduating from high school with at least a 3.0 GPA, will be eligible for an Idaho Promise Scholarship of up to \$250 per semester. Idaho's colleges and universities are encouraged to match those state funds.

Teachers

- The FY 2002 budget includes \$450,000 in start-up funding to establish the "Grow Your Own" Teacher Corps, a scholarship program to help current K-12 instructional assistants earn a teaching degree with an emphasis on English as a Second Language.

Technology

- Idaho allocated \$200,000 to match a portion of a \$750,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide technology leadership training to school administrators. The program will be led by the Idaho Association of School Administrators with matching funds from several sources. The State Board of Education will approve any expenditure of the state's matching money after ensuring that the training is consistent with the goals of the Idaho Council for Technology in Learning.

Illinois

Administration

- Governor George H. Ryan has named a School Code Rewrite Commission to rewrite Illinois' School Code. The Commissioners will establish committees to study and make recommendations for revisions to the Code. A report is due January 2003.

Career-Related Education

- Governor Ryan has encouraged the State Education Board to sustain Education-To-Careers (Illinois' implementation of the national School-to-Work legislation) as an over-arching philosophy for public education. Even though federal funds will sunset, Governor Ryan believes the initiatives that have been implemented through integrated activities are valuable for youth development.
- Governor Ryan also supports the "Jobs for Illinois Graduates" (JILG) program, Illinois' version of the "Jobs for America's Graduates." Under the Governor's direction, JILG received an additional \$2 million in 2002, meaning 5,000 students will be served in the program. JILG enjoys a 95 percent graduation rate and an 85% positive outcome rate for program participants.

Early Childhood Education

- The newly formed Governor's Task Force on Universal Access to Pre-School will focus on creating a five-year blueprint for providing quality early childhood education opportunities for all three-to-five year-olds. Illinois' early childhood education results to date have been extremely positive. According to the State Board of Education, available data indicate that teachers rate 95 percent at-risk pre-K program participants proficient in most or all areas of kindergarten readiness. From kindergarten through 8th grade, more than 75 percent of former at-risk pre-K students were recommended for placement in the next grade without additional support.

Governance

- Illinois has taken a leadership role in a national consortium of states that are aligning their pre-kindergarten through college programs. The state has shared ideas with The Education Trust and the National Association of System Heads (NASH).

Finance

- Governor Ryan pledged 51 percent of all new state revenues every year to education and workforce training. As a result of this pledge, \$460 million in new funding for schools, or \$173 in added state support for every school child, was earmarked in this year's budget. In addition, for an unprecedented third year in a row, under Governor Ryan's leadership, categorical programs have been fully funded.

Higher Education

- The General Assembly approved Governor Ryan's commitment to rebuilding the state's community colleges with a \$250 million, 5-year construction program. In all, this budget includes a record commitment to higher education, with more than \$3.7 billion committed this year for state universities, community colleges, and private institutions.

Literacy

- The 92nd Illinois General Assembly passed legislation that strengthens accountability for reading instruction. This legislation stipulates that reading instruction be based on scientific reading

research and that instruction be focused on early intervention that focuses on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency and comprehension. The legislation provides for long-term professional development to school administrators, reading specialists, classroom teachers and reading teacher's aids. School districts are charged with being accountable for overall improvement, as well as individual student improvement. Progress must be reported on an annual basis.

- Governor Ryan has vastly increased state funding for reading, especially in the lower primary grades. These programs include more one-on-one instruction and the expansion of Summer Bridge programs. This year, \$115.9 million have been committed to improve children's reading instruction in Illinois schools.
- Governor Ryan created a statewide Office of Literacy to better coordinate the various efforts of schools, libraries, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, businesses, and local governments in order to stress the importance of reading and literacy in the lives of all Illinoisans. He launched Illinois Reads to create the literacy framework that guides citizens towards lifelong learning. Initiatives include eighteen mobile resource and education centers for child care facilities, and reading kits for 35,000 elementary school teachers to improve the instruction of reading.
- Governor Ryan and the 91st General Assembly worked together to make sure Illinois adult education and family literacy would be effectively administered through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). The 92nd General Assembly passed legislation that completes the transition process by establishing a fund in the State Treasury that allows the ICCB to receive and distribute federal Adult Education and Family Literacy funds. The General Assembly also approved a \$9 million increase in funding for adult education and family literacy, bringing the state funding to \$39 million.

Programs

- Governor Ryan has allocated \$3 million to his Parental Involvement Program, begun in 2000, to create eight new regional offices to provide training for parents in 177 school districts. The program strives to improve student performance in the classroom by increasing parents' role as partners.

School Construction

- In the 2002 budget, \$740 million in new funds are provided to the Illinois FIRST school construction program, including \$148 million for Chicago Public Schools.

Teachers

- Governor Ryan named a Teacher Quality Advisory Council to address teacher retention, recruitment and quality. Governor Ryan also allocated \$100 million over two years to hire new teachers statewide, \$1.5 million for a pilot professional development program, and \$2.5 million in scholarships for high school seniors who pledge to be teachers for five years after they graduate from college.

Technology

- In January 2001, Governor Ryan announced the opening of the Illinois Virtual High School (IVHS). Illinois is one of only five states in the nation to offer a statewide virtual high school (Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico). Through the IVHS, students in public and nonpublic schools have expanded learning opportunities. The Virtual High School is a valuable

mechanism for offering quality instruction to those who are interested, regardless of geographic location or the wealth of the district. In the initial pilot semester, 295 students enrolled in IVHS courses. For fall 2001, 137 high schools have signed up to participate; 66 semester courses and 10 Advanced Placement review courses will be available for school year 2001-2002.

Indiana

Choice

- Indiana Governor Frank L. O'Bannon signed the state's first charter school authorizing legislation, adding Indiana to the growing list of states offering charter schools as an educational option. The state's new law requires a charter school to be sponsored by: one of the state's five public universities, the mayor of Indianapolis, or a school board. These chartering authorities will oversee the administrative functioning of charter schools, including the creation of policies and restrictions. Indiana received an 'A' grade for its charter-school friendly legislation from the Center for Education Reform, a Washington research group that promotes charters and other school choice initiatives. The state's new law became effective July 1, 2001.

Early Childhood Education

- Governor O'Bannon won funding for his proposed school-readiness programs, including full-day kindergarten. While less than requested, the legislature allocated \$20 million over the next two years for districts to run all-day-kindergarten programs.

Finance

- Despite the state's economic slowdown, Indiana increased the general operating aid it gives school districts and also made available for the first time \$20 million over the next two years for districts to run all-day-kindergarten programs. The state has allocated \$3.41 billion for general operating aid to school districts in the 2001-02 fiscal year, a 3.5 percent increase over what it gave districts during the current fiscal year.

Teachers

- The Indiana legislature approved \$16.25 million for the Governor's proposed teacher training program, to be spent during the second year of the biennium. This investment will enhance the training teachers now receive and give local school corporations flexibility to create training programs that align with their school improvement plans. The training program was authorized as part of school accountability legislation passed in 1999.

Iowa

Choice

- Through a line-item veto, Governor Thomas J. Vilsack restored \$550,000 to reimburse families for providing transportation for their children who attend private schools.

Finance

- Iowa passed a \$2 billion K-12 education budget for the coming fiscal year. Governor Vilsack used his line-item-veto authority to soften budget blows to education by restoring money for a variety of programs earmarked by the legislature for cuts or no increase. Governor Vilsack restored the promised \$10 million increase for class-size reductions and early-literacy programs.

Funding for these multiyear programs, which began in the 2000 fiscal year, has reached \$30 million, up from \$20 million this year.

- To support his teacher-quality initiative, Governor Vilsack restored a proposed \$2 million decrease in funding for teacher professional development, bringing that budget to \$23 million.

Governance

Through an Executive Order, Governor Vilsack initiated a bipartisan preschool through postsecondary (P-16) Education Roundtable to help Iowa identify ways to make its educational system more seamless. Comprised of business, civic, and educational leaders, the Roundtable has been asked to advise the Governor on workable strategies on such issues as expanding access to early learning opportunities; smoothing student transitions between learning levels and across sectors; closing the achievement gap between students of different backgrounds; upgrading teacher education and professional development; and assessing employer needs within the state and implementing those needs into a comprehensive educational policy.

Teachers

- Governor Vilsack won legislation creating the first statewide teacher compensation system based fundamentally on performance rather than seniority. The bill links teacher pay increases with a new evaluation system and a four-leveled career path, and includes a mentoring program for new teachers and a pilot program offering bonuses for schools that meet student achievement goals. The multiyear package, funded at \$40 million for the first year, will also articulate standards for teacher knowledge and skills, redesign the teacher evaluation system, and fund team-based bonuses for schools that meet student achievement goals.

The new system will begin to take effect in participating districts this fall and become statewide in 2003. This year's implementation includes a salary increase for beginning teachers of \$1,500 per year to a minimum of \$28,000. The first level in the career path is completing a two-year mentoring and induction period under the guidance of experienced mentor teachers. The induction period culminates with an evaluation leading to a permanent teaching license. Teachers already in the Iowa public schools will enter into the new system at the second step of the career path. Advancement to the other levels – career teacher, career II teacher, and advanced teacher – is tied to demonstrations of ability and performance in the classroom, determined through comprehensive performance reviews by district administrators, or in the final level, by a regional team from outside the school district. For example, teachers will have to demonstrate that they have mastered the subjects they teach as well as classroom management and instructional leadership. Teachers will have opportunities to move up the career ladder and salary schedule at their own pace, and a talented and ambitious educator could achieve the top pay level within five years.

Kansas

Finance

- Kansas passed a school finance package based on Governor Bill Graves' State of the State Address proposal. The legislation provides \$67 million in new funding for pre-collegiate education in fiscal 2002, for a total of \$2.4 billion. The state's overall fiscal 2002 budget is \$4.5 billion. The plan increases per-pupil spending by \$50, to \$3,870; allocates \$7.5 million more to expand two established programs for preschool and elementary school students deemed at risk; and provides \$8 million more to fund the state's share of special education expenses.

Kentucky

Governance

- New legislation, signed by Governor Paul E. Patton, defines “P-16 Councils” or “councils of partners” composed of educators from public and private preschools, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education institutions, and may include community and business representatives for the purpose of improving the alignment and quality of education continuum from pre-school through postsecondary education as well as student achievement at all levels. The legislation directs the Council on Postsecondary Education to create and administer a matching grant program to support local and regional P-16 councils.
- Another bill confirmed an executive order that removed the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board from the Department of Education and attaches it to the Governor’s office. The legislation requires that all appointments to the Board made by the Governor be confirmed by both chambers of the General Assembly.

Higher Education

- Governor Patton signed legislation that permits a student who maintains Kentucky residency to earn credit toward a base Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (merit based) program award for the academic grade point average earned while participating in an approved foreign educational exchange program or in the United States Congressional Page School.
- Legislation was enacted to direct public postsecondary education institutions to waive tuition and mandatory student fees for a child who is 18 years of age, a full-time student, and was adopted or in foster care upon school entry. The legislation requires that an eligible student meet all entrance requirements for the postsecondary institution and maintain academic eligibility while enrolled.

Louisiana

Teachers

- Louisiana increased teacher salaries by at least \$2,000 a teacher, putting the state on the verge of meeting Governor Mike Foster’s goal of raising teacher pay to the Southern average.
- Louisiana will introduce zero-interest education loans to teachers under a new program to help keep public school teachers in the state. The new Higher Education Loan Program for teachers will be provided by the Louisiana Education Loan Authority through tax-free bonds, at no cost to the state.

Maine

Technology

- Under Governor Angus King, the state has created the Maine Learning Technology Endowment. With \$30 million in state funding this year, the endowment will provide a laptop computer for every 7th grade student in the state starting in fall 2002. The state’s legislature has committed funding, backed by private fundraising by the Governor, to ensure that all 7th and 8th grade students and teachers in Maine have personal computer technology available to them at all times.

The plan calls for deployment of wireless networks to all of Maine's 242 middle schools in the summer of 2002 and the deployment of individual devices to all 7th grade teachers and students in the fall. The state will follow with deployment to 8th grade students and teachers the following year. This will be the first statewide deployment of individual computer technology to all students and Maine's effort may serve as a pilot for the nation.

Maryland

Choice

- The Maryland legislature approved \$5 million of the Governor Parris Glendening's \$8 million request to purchase non-sectarian textbooks for students in private and parochial schools that charge tuition less than the State average per pupil expenditure.

Early Childhood Education

- The General Assembly passed Governor Glendening's Early Childhood Education Initiative. This includes \$19 million in new funding to Maryland counties to be used for K-3 programs to raise 3rd grade MSPAP scores. Eligible uses include: reducing class size; all-day kindergarten programs; early grade reading initiatives; or investing in library and support materials.
- Another \$11 million will be directed to Pre-K programs to certify childcare centers as early learning centers, to evaluate childcare providers, and to expand the state's Judy Hoyer Centers.

Finance

- Maryland's General Assembly passed nearly 100% of Governor Glendening's proposals for K-12 Education operating support. The increase in K-12 direct aid to classroom instruction was the largest single item proposed in the Governor's budget (up by \$203 million). Total funding increased by \$1 billion, to \$2.57 billion in FY 2002.

Higher Education

- Colleges, universities, and community colleges received a 10.5% increase in funding. The total higher education budget has increased more than 60% during the Glendening-Townsend Administration, similar to the state increase in support for K-12 education.
- Building for the future, the General Assembly supported the Administration's proposal for full FY 2002 funding of the statewide \$1.3 billion campus construction program.

School Construction

- With more than \$250 million in new FY 2002 funding for classroom modernization and construction, Governor Glendening has funded more than \$1.45 billion toward his \$1.6 billion 8-year commitment to revitalize more than 13,000 classrooms across the state.

Massachusetts

Accountability

- To provide immediate help for students taking the state's assessment this academic year, Governor Jane Swift directed the Department of Education to release \$10 million to fund school districts' MCAS extra-help programs.

- Governor Swift also announced an “Extra Help Guarantee” to ensure students do not fall through the cracks and have every chance possible to pass the MCAS test. Beginning in September 2002, she will award \$1,000 grants to first semester 12th grade students who have not yet passed the high-stakes exam to help their parents pay for preparation courses or other study tools if the child’s school district has not made an appropriate program available. Swift will file legislation to launch this grant program, which will be administered by the Department of Education.

Teachers

- To support new teachers, Governor Swift also asked the Legislature to approve \$2.5 million from her budget to match the state’s most experienced teachers with first-year teachers. These mentor educators will receive a stipend to provide expertise and guidance to the newest teachers.

Michigan

Accountability

- Michigan's pioneering school report card is now improved with the first-ever independent audit of the state’s public schools. Available online, the Standard & Poors’ School Evaluation Services (SES) report analyzes more than 1400 fields of information regarding each of 554 districts. Information is collected for six broad categories: academic performance, school spending, return on resources, learning environment, financial environment, and demographic environment. SES is a powerful new web-based information and decision-making tool for educators, parents, policymakers, and others committed to improving the state's schools. It shows readers how a school district's academic performance, school expenditures, and other factors compare to the district over time, to the state average, and to neighboring districts. In addition, districts can compare their performance to that of "peer" districts. Through these comparisons, users can easily spot trends, highlight successful practices, and detect vulnerabilities that may need further attention. The project has the support of Michigan Governor John Engler and the state education commissioner, as well as educational professionals and business groups that were involved in the project's Advisory Group. Developed over four years, the S&P site cost Michigan \$2 million to construct, and will cost an additional \$8 million to maintain over the next four years.

Technology

- Governor Engler announced a statewide program that will provide education institutions in Michigan with free access to more than 700 computer-related and professional development courses. Dubbed the Information Technology Training Initiative, the program will make free online training available through Michigan Virtual University to as many as 850,000 faculty, staff and students in Michigan’s K-12, university, and community college systems. It will also make the courses available free to as many as 25,000 Michigan workers. NETg (National Education Training Group), a worldwide leader in providing e-learning solutions for businesses, has been selected to provide the courses in information technology (IT), management and communications skills. So far, Michigan’s program is the largest nationwide in its scope.

Minnesota

Accountability

- A new seventh-grade basic skills test was approved which will include questions measuring students’ computation skills without using a calculator. Parents will have increased access to the statewide tests their students take.

Finance

- A tax bill signed by Governor Jesse Ventura obliges the state to take over a portion of public school costs now borne by local property taxes. Homeowners across Minnesota will get an average tax cut of 22.4 percent. State income and sales taxes will pay for 78 percent of total public school costs, up from 66 percent, leaving voter-approved special levies as the only property taxes going to schools. A new statewide property tax on cabins and business property will be imposed, and inflationary growth in that tax will be dedicated to education.
- The general education funding formula increases \$104 in per pupil spending, or about 2.6 percent, during each year of the biennium.

Teachers

- \$8 million has been earmarked to help school districts develop new pay schedules for teachers beyond the current approach that bases salaries on the years of experience and level of education.
- School boards must prove that any new two-year labor agreements fit within district budgets during the biennium. They also must estimate their revenues and expenditures the following year. The state also waives a \$25 per student penalty for districts that don't settle by January 15, 2002.

Mississippi

Higher Education

- Governor Ronnie Musgrove introduced members of the Steering Committee for Mississippi's Leadership Summit on Higher Education; the committee is charged with developing a vision for Mississippi higher education. Mississippi was chosen by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges as the first state to hold such a leadership summit.
- Governor Musgrove called upon the parties to the Ayers higher-education discrimination lawsuit to negotiate a settlement to the 25 year-old case. He initiated a dialogue that has resulted in a proposed Settlement Agreement supported by the plaintiffs and defendants. The Settlement Agreement includes over \$500 million for facilities and programs at the three historically African-American universities over a 17-year period, exceeding the requirements prescribed by the federal courts.

Teachers

- Governor Musgrove won removal of the state's 5 percent growth trigger – a provision that tied teacher pay raises to at least 5 percent economic growth – during a 2001 special legislative session. The teacher salary bill, passed in 2000, provides for \$337.9 million to raise Mississippi teacher pay to the Southeastern average by the 2005-2006 school year.

Technology

- In his state-of-the-state address, Governor Musgrove promised to ensure Internet-accessible computers in every public elementary and secondary classroom in Mississippi by the end of 2002. More than half the machines are being installed in schools across the state in 2001.

Missouri

Accountability

- Building on the district report card requirement of Missouri's Outstanding Schools Act of 1993, Governor Bob Holden proposed that the state provide *school*-level report cards to parents, school patrons, taxpayers, and their communities. New 2001 legislation provides for parents to receive a concise document that includes understandable key data on student and school academic performance. These data will include information on classroom conditions, teacher qualifications, class size, school safety, graduation and dropout rates, local tax rates, and the amount of money spent for each child's education.
- Governor Holden signed legislation that focuses on the fundamental importance of reading and clarified existing legislation that was designed to prevent "social promotion" in public schools. The new law requires students to be retained following the fourth grade if they have not made sufficient progress toward reading at grade level. It also requires school districts to develop individualized "Reading Improvement Plans" for students reading more than one year below their grade level and ensures that they receive additional reading instruction.

Character Education

- The General Assembly approved Governor Holden's proposal to fund \$1.0 million to expand Missouri's character education initiative for school districts.

Early Childhood Education

- Missouri will follow Governor Holden's recommendation to use part of the state's tobacco settlement funds to enhance efforts to ensure that every child has quality early childhood care and education by providing \$14.4 million in new resources for successful programs, including: \$6.1 million to increase the number of at-risk families served by Parents as Teachers, \$3.5 million to increase access to child care for low-income working families, \$1.6 million for the Early Head Start Program, \$1.1 million for grants to communities to meet locally identified needs, and \$852,950 to expand successful nurse home visitation programs.

Finance

- Despite a drop in revenue and budget reductions in some areas, Governor Holden requested and the General Assembly approved a \$78 million increase in Fiscal Year 2002 to fully fund Missouri's equity formula and At-Risk Program, bringing the total funding to over \$2 billion.

Higher Education

- Governor Holden also requested funds from Missouri's tobacco settlement for higher education. Included in the programs approved by the General Assembly were \$3.4 million for the University of Missouri medical school to fund a telemedicine project that will allow specialized medical care and resources to be available throughout the state through the power of advanced communication technology. Also funded was \$21.6 million for life sciences research grants and related expenses. This funding will support medical research and development in both public and private institutions of higher education in Missouri.

Montana

Curriculum

- Governor Judy Martz of Montana earmarked \$120,000 for the biennium to help incorporate information about American Indians into state education standards and improve communication between the American Indian community and educators.

Finance

- Governor Martz signed legislation increasing the state's BASE aid to local school districts by \$26.5 million over the biennium, along with increases in state support of special education and school facility costs. The Governor also signed legislation creating a new "flexible spending" fund for local districts, with state aid of \$5 million dollars directed toward assisting districts with items such as technology enhancements, supplies and materials, and salary enhancements. The state's total distribution to local school districts for the next biennium will be nearly \$ 1 billion.

Governor Martz signed legislation calling for a joint executive/legislative branch study of Montana's school funding mechanism, which centers largely on student enrollment. The current system was designed and implemented nearly a decade ago during a period of expanding enrollments, and the state is now dealing with declining enrollment.

Teachers

- In an effort to recruit and retain high quality teachers in Montana, the Governor introduced legislation, which was passed and signed, that provides a \$3000 stipend for teachers who secure National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

Nebraska

Early Childhood Education

- The Nebraska budget dedicated over \$3 million dollars over the biennium to accomplish the proposed expansion of the Department of Education's Early Childhood Projects and other recommendations. This represents a significant increase over last year's \$560,000 budget.
- Governor Mike Johanns signed legislation that enacts recommendations of his Early Childhood Interagency Team. The new legislation replaced existing early childhood pilot projects with an Early Childhood Education Grant Program, designed to assist local programs. These standards will include specific requirements for child-to-staff ratios, staff education and training, group size, and health and safety measures. Local programs must also implement language development and early literacy activities and establish an advisory body that includes participating families and community members. Programs receiving early childhood grants will be required to use sliding fee payment schedules for parents of children attending the programs.

Finance

- The state's K-12 budget for FY 2002 was increased by 10%, to \$821 million.

Governance

- The State created an Education Roundtable that will provide a broader and more in-depth examination of school issues. The 36-member panel will be co-chaired by the Governor and Commissioner of Education, and will include representatives of business, local communities, higher education, the legislature, state education associations, the state board of education,

education service units, and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. The roundtable will provide annual recommendations to the legislature, the state board, and the Governor's policy research office.

Higher Education

- Governor Johanns approved an increase of over \$26.6 million dollars in higher education in the first year of the budget, and \$29.4 million added in the second year. The increases represent the largest increase in investment in higher education in Nebraska in the past decade.

Teachers

- Governor Johanns signed a bill into law just half an hour after it received the final legislative vote in order to help the family of a dying schoolteacher. The measure increases teacher retirement benefits and went into effect immediately after Johanns' signature.
- Governor Johanns signed a bill that exempts candidates for entry-level teacher or administrator licensing from the basic skills competency examination if the candidates meet certain criteria. A candidate is exempt if he or she has a teaching or administration certificate from another state based on completion of a teacher education program and has three or more years of experience. A candidate with current credentials from a national nonprofit organization such as the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is also exempt from the basic skills testing requirement. The bill also repealed a requirement for the State Department of Education to administer the basic skills examination for prospective teachers and administrators from outside the state.
- The Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program was established and funded to provide loan forgiveness for teacher education students that teach in designated shortage subject areas in Nebraska.

Nevada

Programs

- An interim legislative committee in Nevada approved \$2.7 million for efforts to boost performance in ailing schools through remedial, after-school, or summer programs.
- Governor Kenny Guinn has approved a bill requiring the state Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of each school district to adopt policies encouraging effective involvement by parents and families in the education of their children.

School Safety

- Governor Guinn has approved a bill that prohibits harassment or intimidation in public schools. The bill defines intimidation as conduct that "poses a threat of immediate harm or actually inflicts harm to another person or to the property of another person." It requires school personnel to demonstrate appropriate behavior on school premises and to help create a safe, respectful learning environment for students.

Teachers

- Governor Guinn will offer new Nevada teachers a \$2000 recruitment bonus this fall; he has also promised current teachers a 5 percent bonus this fall.

- The Governor signed a bill requiring school districts to account for previous experience for teachers or administrators formerly employed by another Nevada school district. It also allows districts to award credit toward compensation for teaching service earned in another state if the standards for licensing teachers of that state have been approved.

New Hampshire

Accountability

- The budget includes funding to support the development of competency-based transcripts in school districts throughout New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Department of Education, the University System of New Hampshire, local districts, and business leaders have been working for five years, on a pilot project scale, to put in place competency-based assessments and transcripts that will better ensure students are gaining the skills and knowledge in middle and high school that they will need to excel in post-secondary education and the new economy. The new state funding, totaling \$500,000 over the biennium, allows for the expansion of the program into school districts across New Hampshire.

Early Childhood Education

- Governor Jeanne Shaheen signed legislation extending the Kindergarten Incentive Program (KIP) through 2004 to ensure that incentives for establishing state-approved, public-funded kindergartens in New Hampshire school districts remain in place. Since the Governor first enacted KIP in 1997, 36 districts have implemented public kindergarten and enrolled a total of 4,400 additional children. The extension of KIP, which was scheduled to sunset in 2002, leaves the incentives in place for the 20 districts still seeking local approval to establish kindergarten programs.
- Governor Shaheen signed a budget that includes her recommended \$1.1 million in home-visiting services for at-risk children up to one-year-old. These funds will provide low-income families the educational, parenting, and health supports they need to raise healthy children who will arrive at school ready and eager to learn.
- New Hampshire's budget includes funding Governor Shaheen's recommendation to establish the Family and Child Development Center at the New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI) in Concord, New Hampshire. The Center will serve as a lab school for NHTI students pursuing degrees in early childhood education. It is the only known lab school in the country that focuses explicitly on family child care and features a classroom set up like a family child care home, where child development students can practice working with multi-age groups in a simulated living room/den-kitchen setting. The center is fully wired for distance education so family child care providers can take advantage of learning opportunities at the Center from remote locations. More than half of the children in child care in New Hampshire are cared for in family child care homes.

Finance

- Governor Shaheen secured \$882 million for 2002 and \$899 million for 2003 for the state's schools, a \$120 million increase over the previous biennium. The funding ensures that New Hampshire meets its constitutional obligation under a state Supreme Court decision to fund the cost of an adequate education for every child in the state.

Higher Education

- Governor Shaheen secured \$500,000 in the next biennial budget to launch the Granite State Scholars Program. Matched by private donations, this program will provide scholarships to New Hampshire students based on need who excel in high school, and who choose to attend one of the state's public colleges. The program is designed to stem the "brain drain" the state experiences from high-achieving New Hampshire students accepting higher financial aid offers from out-of-state colleges.
- Governor Shaheen approved a doubling of the State Tuition Incentive Grants Program to provide \$6 million in need-based aid to students who could not otherwise afford college.
- Governor Shaheen achieved her recommended 5 percent increase in funding per annum for the University System of New Hampshire institutions and \$100 million in capital budget appropriations to fund critical capital projects to support science and engineering programs on the USNH campuses.

Leadership

- The biennial budget included over \$4 million in funding to sustain and grow Governor Shaheen's Best Schools Leadership Program. Best Schools, first funded in 1998, provides technical assistance and support to more than half of New Hampshire's schools. Schools enrolled in the program engage in a three-year leadership development and capacity-building program that helps them identify student performance goals and take actions to achieve those goals.

Technology

- Governor Shaheen signed legislation requiring New Hampshire's public higher education study committee to explore the feasibility of granting state franchise rights to providers of online education courses.

New Jersey

Early Childhood

- Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco launched a \$5 million incentive program to help recruit 400 pre-school teachers in financially needy, urban districts throughout New Jersey. Incentives include a first-year cash recruitment bonus of \$3,500 for new teachers and \$6,000 for "high achievers" -- those college graduates with grade point averages above 3.0. Non-cash rewards ranging between \$6,500 and \$10,000 will be given over four years for those teachers who remain in an Abbott pre-school program during this time. These funds can be used to forgive student loans or for graduate education tuition at any New Jersey college or university. Newly recruited teachers will also receive a laptop computer in order to help them become more comfortable with using computers in the classroom.

Teachers

- Governor DiFrancesco's Agenda for Excellence in Education outlines initiatives that will begin to address New Jersey's commitment to teacher quality, retention, and training, improved school facilities, and student and teacher recruitment for urban communities. The state budget provides \$8 million to pay for mentor teachers' stipends and a \$5 million incentive package to help urban districts recruit more preschool teachers. New Jersey is offering cash recruitment incentives of as much as \$6,000 for first-year teachers who are college graduates with GPAs over 3.0, as well as non-cash rewards, such as laptop computers and forgiveness of student loans.

- The Governor also announced the awardees of the Teacher Effectiveness Grants, a \$3 million program aimed at preparing new teachers and enhancing the skills of existing teachers.

New Mexico

Early Childhood Education

- New Mexico's Full-Day Kindergarten Program phase-in process was accelerated from five to four years to help school districts and communities serve children in schools with a high proportion of at-risk students.

Finance

- Governor Gary E. Johnson approved a pre-K-12 budget of \$1.8 billion, resulting in a 9 percent increase of \$149 million in education funding. The budget includes an increase of \$4.3 million to a previous \$17 million to accelerate the implementation of all-day kindergarten. The Governor also signed a bill that distributes \$400 million for school repair or renovation, and a bill to provide mentorship for beginning teachers.
- Governor Johnson approved funds for the second phase of a public school accounting system that will enable the immediate tracking of dollars for districts and allow financial and instructional adjustments to be made at a more efficient pace.

Literacy

- Governor Johnson helped New Mexico establish individualized reading programs for those students who fail to meet grade-level reading standards.

School Construction

- The state approved a \$608 million appropriation, as well as criteria and procedures for funding public school capital outlay projects, to fix or construct educational environments.

Teachers

- Governor Johnson created the Beginning Teachers Mentorship Program to provide up to three years of systematic support to ensure the constructive evaluation and success of beginning teachers.
- The state implemented Alternative Educational Certification to award appropriate certificates for degreed individuals, educational assistants, and professional development courses through two-year institutions of higher learning.

Technology

- Governor Johnson expanded New Mexico's Virtual High School Program by developing and implementing courses for students in need, including students in rural schools with limited teacher resources and students statewide who need alternatives to traditional curricula.

New York

Programs

- Governor George Pataki joined with philanthropist George Soros to urge the New York State Legislature to double state allocations for after-school programs to \$30 million, a pledge the Governor made in his 2001 State of the State address. Governor Pataki reiterated his five-year goal of making funding possible for any school in the state that wants an Advantage After-School program. Soros founded The After-School Corporation (TASC), which provides matching funds for half the state's after-school programs through a partnership with the state.

North Carolina

Character Education

- Governor Michael F. Easley signed legislation that directs local boards of education to develop and implement character education programs and adopt student dress codes. It also directs the State Board of Education to modify the high school and middle school curriculum to include instruction in civic and citizenship education. School systems must implement character education programs by the 2002-03 school year.

Class Size

- Governor Easley signed a budget that includes \$37 million over two years for targeted class size reduction in grades K-3.

Early Childhood

- Governor Easley signed a bill creating "More At Four," a pilot pre-kindergarten program for at-risk four-year-olds.

Programs

- Governor Easley announced that \$8 million in grants will go to alternative learning programs and other programs that help at-risk youth. The Governor signed legislation that allows the North Carolina Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Superintendent of Public Instruction, to establish a pilot program for short-term suspended students. The participating systems will place students who are suspended for 10 days or less in alternative learning programs, day reporting centers, or other similar supervised day programs during their suspension.

Teachers

- The state budget signed by Governor Easley includes a 3 percent increase in teacher salaries, a \$100 expense account for teachers to pay for supplies, increased funding for teacher training and enhancement programs, and bonuses for teachers who meet or exceed performance goals in the state's educational accountability program.
- Governor Easley signed legislation that grants school boards the ability to hire new superintendents who have leadership experience but lack educational degrees. The State Board of Education can set minimum requirements to qualify applicants without direct education experience.

North Dakota

Finance

- Governor John Hoeven provided \$54 million in increased education funding. Of that, \$35 million will be allocated to teacher compensation, resulting in an average increase of \$3,000 per teacher over the next two years. These resources are increased by \$19 million in foundation aid payments that may be used for compensation.
- Governor Hoeven increased tuition apportionment by \$13 million, funded through the common schools trust fund.

Higher Education

- Governor Hoeven approved legislation that gives state colleges and universities more flexibility in their spending and also emphasizes the state's commitment to combining technology with higher education. Flexible spending allows the schools to retain and reallocate tuition dollars and other revenue generated to enhance the education curriculum in response to the market. The State Board of Higher Education will have the discretion to enhance quality education, workforce development and workforce training.
- As proposed in his 2000 campaign, Governor Hoeven achieved more federal funds for higher education research. Additionally, the Governor approved an increase in funding from the Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), a program of the National Science Foundation designed to strengthen science and technology research which then can be used to increase the state's economic growth. The funding was doubled from \$2 million to \$4 million.

Special Needs

- Governor Hoeven increased the amount of state aid to \$652, 250 to provide resources for districts that have students with limited English proficiency.

Teachers

- To recruit qualified teachers to North Dakota, Governor Hoeven added \$250,000 for state-financed repayments for student loans incurred by North Dakota students who agree to teach in grades or content areas identified as having teacher shortages. The base salary for new teachers was increased to \$18,500 in the first year and \$20,000 in the second. The Governor also dedicated \$120,000 for teachers who enroll in courses to undergo retraining into other grade or subject areas.

Technology

- Governor Hoeven established technology funding totaling \$9 million, which includes wiring schools to a statewide high-speed data network.
- Governor Hoeven led North Dakota to establish technology scholarships for the new economy. These scholarships grant students \$5,000 in principal student loan repayments if they pursue studies in technology and stay in North Dakota in a technology-related job. The legislation provides \$3,000 in student loan forgiveness to attract and retain faculty who are obtaining doctoral degrees. Governor Hoeven also signed legislation he proposed to ensure that all schools are wired to the statewide high-speed data network.

- Governor Hoeven supported an increase of \$7.5 million to begin implementation of a software package to help streamline the university system's student records and will help the campuses compete nationally for students seeking online education. The software enhances efficiencies in college record keeping and allows the universities to share financial, payroll and personnel information.

Ohio

Accountability

- Governor Bob Taft signed legislation directing the State Board of Education to develop statewide academic standards for grades K-12 in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. The bill also requires the board to adopt a model curriculum aligned with these academic standards.

Finance

- Governor Bob Taft approved a \$45 billion two-year budget, which includes a \$1.4 billion increase in primary and secondary education over the biennium. The budget increased per pupil spending amounts by 12.1% immediately, to \$4,814 in 2002 and \$4,949 in 2003. Another \$300 million was also included to fund the next installment of a \$10 billion school construction initiative.

Oklahoma

Accountability

- Governor Frank Keating signed legislation which expands the state's testing program by requiring students in grades 1-3 to be assessed at the beginning of each school year for basic reading and language skills. It establishes a statewide goal that 90 percent of third-graders will read at or above grade-level by spring 2007. The law also requires schools to provide instruction to assure that all elementary school students acquire phonics-based reading skills.

Finance

- The FY 2002 state budget signed by Governor Keating provides \$64 million in new money for K-12 education, increasing total funding to more than \$2 billion. The Governor supported \$100 million in new funding.
- The Governor also supported and signed a bill that authorizes the state's office of accountability to conduct a performance review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations of school districts which have administrative costs above set expenditure limits.

Oregon

Early Childhood Education

- Oregon's pre-Kindergarten program will be expanded as part of Governor John Kitzhaber's Oregon Children's Plan (OCP). OCP is designed to provide a system of supports to first-born children, beginning at birth. It is estimated that 55-60% of all eligible children will be served by the end of the 2001-03 budget period. The OCP piggybacks on the federal Head Start program.

Finance

- Oregon changed the decision-making processes on state-level K-12 finance issues. The Governor's Quality Education Commission validates and refines a model for state-level school funding decisions based on "prototype" elementary, middle and high schools. The model determines the types of resources (including costs) needed at these levels to support 90% of students achieving to the state's standards at various grade levels. The Governor's proposed K-12 budget of \$5.2 billion for 2001-03 survived virtually intact, and includes \$220 million for the phase-in of the Commission's model.

Higher Education

- Governor Kitzhaber secured \$45 million to address enrollment growth needs for 2001-03.
- As part of Governor Kitzhaber's recommended budget, the Legislature passed proposals to increase the number of engineering graduates and establish a top-tier engineering school in Oregon. In addition, the Governor's proposal to support the establishment of a branch campus of Oregon State University in Central Oregon (a fast-growing area of the state without a four-year college or university) was funded.

Pennsylvania

Accountability

- The Pennsylvania State Board of Education approved four performance levels that were designed to measure student achievement on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The performance levels will provide parents, students, and teachers with a clearer description of students' performance on the PSSA and a better interpretation of what the assessment scores really mean. The performance levels will also be used to identify students who may be in need of additional academic instruction. The new performance levels will be applied to the 2001 test scores, which will be released in fall 2001.
- In May 2001, Governor Tom Ridge signed legislation for a \$30 million Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Under this plan, corporations receive credit against their state taxes of 75 cents for every dollar they donate to improve education and 90 cents on the dollar if the donation is a two-year commitment.

Programs

- As part of former Governor Ridge's Project for Community Building, over \$400,000 was allocated for organizations throughout Pennsylvania for education mentoring programs. The project, which began in 1997, aims to link students with caring, responsible individuals who will help students improve school attendance and academic achievement. The funding is available to nonprofit, community-based organizations that enter into partnerships with schools to develop or expand education mentoring programs.
- As part of Governor Ridge's education reforms, \$23.6 million was appropriated for the Education Support Services Program. This program will provide funding for eligible students to purchase tutoring services in math and reading from a range of providers. Students in the third, fourth and fifth grades that do not perform above an established level on a national norm-referenced test or the Pennsylvania State School Assessment will be eligible to apply for up to \$500 to purchase tutoring services in math and reading.

- Governor Ridge announced 37 Environmental Education Grants that total nearly \$300,000. The grants will promote environmental stewardship and awareness and help fund teacher training in areas such as land-use, watershed, and general environmental education. School districts, private schools, colleges and nonprofit groups with education and conservation missions are eligible for the grants. Funding is provided through a percentage of the fines and penalties collected by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Teachers

- In the 2001-2002 school year, Pennsylvania will begin assessing public school teachers in math and reading. The assessments will help guide professional development at the individual, district, and state level.

Technology

- Governor Ridge set aside an additional \$5 million to help Pennsylvania's first two "Digital School Districts" continue to serve next year as high-tech education centers and models for the nation. The Governor's Digital School District initiative will transform two Pennsylvania school districts into 21st century education centers that incorporate technology into every aspect of learning, in an effort to dramatically improve the way children learn. An additional \$5 million investment will enable Pennsylvania to select two more Districts during the next fiscal year. There will also be a half-million-dollar investment in helping District finalists upgrade their technology.
- As part of former Governor Ridge's Link-to-Learn education technology initiative, 21 public and private colleges and universities will receive nearly \$5 million in grants to expand and strengthen information technology training for all of their students. The funds will reinforce courses in computer science, network engineering and telecommunications, as well as teach students how the use of technology has spread to many non-technology specific fields. The grants will also be used for professional development of faculty, improvements on technology infrastructure, increased access for students, and to establish partnerships with businesses and K-12 schools.

Rhode Island

School Safety

- A special legislative task force was created to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with the threat of school violence. In addition, school districts must develop school safety plans and school emergency response plans to effectively prepare for violence and other emergencies

Teacher Quality

- Retired teachers may substitute teach for up to 90 days in any one school year without a reduction of retirement benefit. Teacher assistant substitutes who work for more than 20 days during any one school year must meet the requirements of permanent teacher assistants.

South Carolina

Finance

- Governor Jim Hodges won passage of his lottery enabling legislation. All the revenue from the state lottery will be used for educational purposes. The allocation was not finalized this year, but there is general agreement that most of the money will go to funding college scholarships. There will be a strong emphasis on access and opportunity.
- Governor Hodges vetoed the General Assembly's cuts to the K-12 and higher education budgets.

Teachers

- Governor Hodges achieved success towards reaching his State of the State goal of moving teacher salaries to the national average by 2006. The General Assembly approved a raise for teachers of \$1,432, putting South Carolina at \$593 above the Southeastern average.

South Dakota

Higher Education

- Governor William J. Janklow and South Dakota's Northern State University (NSU) President John Hilpert announced plans to make NSU a national center for distance education. The NSU Center for Statewide E-Learning will increase the availability of qualified teachers, with an emphasis on placing student teachers in rural areas, helping to ensure all South Dakota public school students have access to courses they need to prepare for higher education. The center will train teachers and school staff in using distance education technology, provide courses to school districts via video-conferencing, and provide all NSU students with instructional and distance technology skills to use technology in the workplace.

Programs

- Governor Janklow signed a bill providing \$1 million in grants to out-of-school time programs in South Dakota.

Technology

- Governor Janklow negotiated deals to buy 16,040 new Gateway and Apple desktop computers for South Dakota's K-12 public schools in time for the 2001 school year. The deal will provide one new computer for approximately every eight students, which, combined with current machines, creates a ratio of one computer to every 2.3 South Dakota students. The additional computers allow 44 percent of the state's students to be on-line simultaneously.

Tennessee

Curriculum

- Governor Don Sundquist signed legislation that requires public schools to include a curriculum component on personal finance education to help students develop an understanding of money, credit, budgets, and financial planning. The state Department of Education will provide the curriculum for the K-12 personal finance education.

Programs

- Governor Sundquist signed into law his reading initiative, a three-year plan that assigns reading teachers to work with other K-8 classroom teachers and students on reading diagnostics and instruction after attending 7 day reading institutes. In the fall of 2001, the state will provide funds for a pilot competitive grant program to provide K-3 Reading Teachers to up to 100 schools with low reading scores. In the fall of 2002, another pilot program will be started for 100 Reading Teachers for grades K-6, and in 2003, a pilot program will start for grades K-8. Schools that do not obtain a Reading Teacher will have funding available to provide reading coaches for K-8 students. These coaches will be full-time teachers who will receive a stipend to train teachers on the best methods for teaching reading and to help teachers diagnose reading problems in children. Coaches will also assist in training volunteers from the community to provide one-on-one reading time for children.

Texas

Early Childhood Education

- Texas Governor Rick Perry signed legislation that allows districts to offer free, half-day pre-kindergarten to children who are at least age 4 and who do not know English, are educationally disabled, or are homeless. Districts are not required to provide transportation, but transportation costs are included in the funding. If construction of new classroom facilities is required, the district can request a waiver for building new facilities.

Higher Education

- Governor Perry signed legislation creating Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant II, which will provide grants for eligible students attending technical institutes, junior colleges and public state colleges within Texas. Eligibility for the TEXAS Grant II is based upon demonstrated financial need. Furthermore, funding for another grant program was tripled to nearly \$300 million for 2002-03. The increased funding will allow 65,000 additional Texans the opportunity to earn a college degree at a four-year institution.

Teachers

Governor Perry signed legislation creating the Master Math Initiative, a grant program to improve math instruction. The \$30 million initiative will establish a Master Mathematics Teacher Certification Program, modeled after a state program to certify master reading teachers that began last year. Master teachers will receive annual bonuses of \$5,000 if they teach at high-need schools and mentor other educators. The initiative also funds professional development workshops for math teachers in grades 5-8, creates a diagnostic tool to help educators assess students' math skills, and authorizes school districts to create after-school and summer math instruction programs for students that need additional help.

Utah

Accountability

- The emerging Utah Performance Assessment System for Students (U-PASS) received an enhancement to complete the development of criterion referenced tests at all grade levels, and to provide an additional \$10 million for teacher in-service training in the assessment system process. The test of basic skills, which all students must pass in order to qualify for the standard high school diploma, was piloted this spring and will be fully implemented next school year.

Charter Schools

- Governor Michael O. Leavitt signed a bill that removes the pilot status of the state's charter school program, expands the number of authorized charter schools, and allows local school boards to sponsor public charter schools.

Finance

- The Utah budget provides \$1.71 billion in state funding for K-12 education, an increase of 5.2%.
- With supplemental funding for FY 2001 and budget enhancements for FY 2002, state funds for public education increased by \$141.9 million, or 8.7 percent. Major increases included \$89.6 million for the equity-driven Minimum School Program, \$23.8 million to help replace outdated and badly worn textbooks, and \$8 million in additional matching funds for local property tax levies – particularly in districts where property tax values are low relative to the number of students. A substantial amount of funding was appropriated as block grants, which provide local school districts with greater autonomy with respect to programs and offerings.

Teachers

- Governor Leavitt proposed and signed a 6% increase in spending on teacher salaries.
- The Governor signed the Teacher Quality Amendments, a comprehensive state policy on teacher recruitment, licensure, professional development, and evaluation. The intent of this legislation is to ensure that every classroom is staffed by a skilled, caring, and effective teacher.

Technology

- Governor Leavitt obtained \$9.9 million in funding to prepare, attract, retain and retrain highly qualified teachers of mathematics, physical science, and computer science. As part of the Governor's campaign to double the number of engineering and computer science graduates within four years, the funding will be available to those who commit to teaching in Utah's public schools for a minimum of four years. The Governor's initiative also accelerated construction of science and engineering facilities at state higher education institutions and provided incentives for engineering, computer science, and related technology faculty, as well as a student loan and loan forgiveness program.
- With strong leadership from Governor Leavitt, legislation was adopted to establish a new Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT). There will be a governing board for the UCAT and local boards of trustees for each of nine regional applied technology colleges under the UCAT umbrella. The new statewide system will be coordinated with public and higher education to ensure that competency-based technology education is provided efficiently to both adults and secondary competency school students throughout the state. The plan also provides for the development of a competency-based high school diploma, and a competency-based Associate of Applied Technology degree that will be transferable to Utah institutions of higher education.

Vermont

Programs

- Governor Howard Dean, M.D., signed legislation that authorizes schools to offer American Sign Language (ASL) as a course for foreign language credit. The Board of Education will establish licensing credentials for ASL teachers, and the Commissioner of Education will encourage postsecondary institutions to accept secondary school ASL credits as foreign language credits.

Virginia

Higher Education

- Governor James S. Gilmore announced the sale of Virginia College Building Authority bonds, providing \$65.8 million in additional resources for Virginia's institutions of higher education. The bonds will provide \$18.5 million in funding for capital projects and \$47.3 million for the acquisition of instructional and research equipment.

Technology

- Through the Governor's Innovative Technology in Education Award, Virginia and America On Line (AOL) partnered to recognize teachers and library media specialists in Virginia's public schools who have developed innovative and effective uses for technology in instruction. Award recipients representing eight Superintendent's Regional Study Groups received unrestricted awards of \$1,000 from AOL.
- Governor Gilmore committed \$3 million to a partnership with PowerUp to provide technology resources in community and education-based locations. PowerUp is a nonprofit group, organized and operated for the purpose of assisting under-served youth to obtain the skills, experiences and resources required to succeed in the digital age. Up to 100 PowerUp centers will be opened in disadvantaged communities in 2001, making Virginia's commitment the largest public sector grant received by PowerUp since its founding.
- Governor Gilmore awarded \$18 million dollars in technology research grants to Virginia's colleges and universities. Research universities from across the Commonwealth received funds from the Commonwealth Technology Research Fund. The fund was created last year to help Virginia's colleges and universities vie competitively for federal and private research grants and to increase technological and economic development in Virginia through investment in higher education funding.
- Virginia is the first state to partner with America On Line (AOL) in its innovative AOL@SCHOOL program. AOL@SCHOOL is a free online learning tool designed to help schools make the interactive Internet medium a more effective part of the classroom experience.

Washington

Accountability

- To assist low-performing schools, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will conduct educational audits and enter performance agreements with school districts based on the findings of the audit and input from the community.

Class size

- Funding of \$85.7 million was provided to keep the commitment to smaller classes and extended learning opportunities in public schools.

Higher Education

- The Technology Institute at the University of Washington, Tacoma, was established to rapidly increase the number of graduates from the university's computing and software systems program, and to prepare community and technical students to transfer to the Institute.
- Governor Gary Locke approved the use of \$11.2 million in new funding to pay for Promise Scholarships, which are awarded to the top 15 percent of graduating high school students (or those who scored at least 1200 on the SAT), who also meet certain income criteria.

Leadership

- Governor Locke provided new funding to a program to train and develop school principals. The school principal support program pairs new principals with mentors for up to three years and assists the new principals in developing an individualized professional growth plan.

Programs

- Governor Locke provided funding for the continuation of the Washington Reading Corps program. This program is a unique collaboration between schools, community groups, and business. Community volunteers provide tutoring in reading for low-performing students in grades K-6.
- Governor Locke approved a funding increase for the Math Helping Corps program. The program assigns mathematics school-improvement specialists to work with low performing schools that have requested assistance.
- Governor Locke approved the use of \$1.8 million to assist school districts participating in the Pacific Science Center's Leader Assistance for Science Education Reform program. The program helps school districts implement an inquiry-based, K-8 science program.

School Safety

- Governor Locke approved funding for all school districts to be used for making schools safer. Districts are encouraged to use these funds to develop comprehensive school-based safety plans that include prevention, intervention, and hazard/crisis response and recovery elements.
- Governor Locke approved \$500,000 for the creation of a program that will train school districts to prevent bullying and harassment. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will develop a model bullying and harassment prevention policy and disseminate this information to school districts.

Teachers

- Governor Locke signed legislation that offers alternative routes to teaching certification, providing a state investment in addressing teacher shortages. The bill is designed to attract mid-career professionals into teaching, especially in the fields of math and science. Through flexible coursework and training provided at night and on weekends, these individuals can continue their employment and complete a teaching internship with a skilled mentor teacher.
- Governor Locke won approval for a bill that allows districts to rehire newly retired teachers while allowing them to collect their full pensions.

- Teacher salaries were increased by 3.7 percent authorized by a voter-approved initiative.
- Governor Locke approved the use of \$2 million for school districts and universities to coordinate teacher preparation programs that allow would-be teachers to work toward a teaching certificate while learning from a skilled mentor teacher in the classroom.

West Virginia

Character Education

- Governor Robert Wise passed a bill that establishes guidelines for character education in schools. The bill requires that the State Board of Education develop a comprehensive plan for integrating character education into the existing K-12 curriculum. The bill also calls for in-service training related to character education for teachers, and mandates an independent evaluation of the character education effort by September 2003. The Governor established "The Governor's Youth in the Outdoors" program, which is designed to develop skill-oriented outdoor programming for West Virginia youth, and to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the state's conservation efforts, natural resources, and environment among students. The Governor's Office is working with the State's Division of Natural Resources on this initiative.

Finance

- Governor Wise allotted an additional \$200 million to be spent by the School Building Authority over the next 10 years.

Governance

- By Executive Order, Governor Wise created the Governor's P-20 Council of West Virginia, which is designed to increase educational efficiency and effectiveness through collaboration between the K-12 and higher education systems. The Council has already addressed the state's new K-12 assessment program and its relationship to college and university admissions standards.

Higher Education

- Governor Wise funded the PROMISE Scholarship Program, which was created two years ago but not allotted funding. The program encourages and rewards student academic achievements, promotes college attendance, and seeks to retain academically successful students in West Virginia. Recipients of the scholarship receive full tuition and fees to a West Virginia institution of higher learning. The funding comes from video-poker and other coin-based machines.
- The Governor approved an additional \$150 million to be spent at colleges and state parks.
- Governor Wise signed legislation creating the Council for Community and Technical Colleges, which is charged with developing a strategic plan for expanding and improving the state's community and technical college system.
- The Governor signed legislation that established the West Virginia College Savings Plan, which will serve as a complement to the state's Prepaid Tuition Plan.

Programs

- Governor Wise created the Governor's Honors School for Math and Science out of the remaining funds from his November 2000 inauguration. The \$440,000 remaining in the

Inaugural Committee's treasury will be placed in a special account designated for the Governor's School. The School will consist of two sessions, each two weeks in length, and will host a total of 120 students in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades.

- The Governor signed into law legislation that established the West Virginia Holocaust Education Commission. The Commission is responsible for providing professional development opportunities for teachers in the area of Holocaust studies, conducting tolerance workshops, maintaining a lending library of Holocaust resource materials, and coordinating a statewide Holocaust curriculum.

Teachers

- Governor Wise provided funding for raises for West Virginia teachers and school service personnel. The Governor also approved annual bonuses of \$2,500 for teachers who achieve National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.
- Governor Wise signed legislation that established the National Institute for Teaching Excellence to enhance West Virginia's ongoing teaching quality efforts. The Institute will invite top recent graduates from teacher education programs in every state to West Virginia for a week-long institute to share and learn innovative teaching strategies.
- Governor Wise signed legislation that gives a \$500 incentive to teachers who give written notice by the end of the school year that they are not planning to return to the school district the following year. The legislation also establishes a statewide job bank to help recruit and reemploy experienced teachers working outside of the education field who lose their jobs because of layoffs. The Governor also approved a bill allowing retired teachers to work an unlimited number of days as substitute teachers without the loss of retirement benefits.
- The Governor passed a measure requiring all prospective teachers seeking licensure in West Virginia to undergo a background check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Wisconsin

Technology

- Governor Scott McCallum secured more than \$1.7 million in grants to be awarded to schools with distance education networks that were installed more than four years ago. The funds come from the TEACH Wisconsin program, a five-year, \$500 million program that invests in technology for Wisconsin schools. The grants from TEACH will help offset technology costs for 118 public schools that installed high-speed Internet access or full-motion video links prior to the formation of the program in 1997. Schools can use the grants to pay for Internet access, hardware, software and other items for education technology.

Wyoming

- Governor Jim Geringer signed legislation that requires public school districts to implement a reading assessment for first and second grade students. Schools will be required to demonstrate reading proficiency and provide remediation programs.

Charter Schools

- Governor Geringer signed into law legislation that opens the availability of charter schools.

Programs

- Governor Geringer received increased funding to keep Wyoming's citizens' professional and vocational skill levels highly competitive through workforce development. Funding will be used by companies and the state to upgrade employees' skills through training. Governor Geringer supported the creation of a tuition assistance program for the Wyoming National Guard to improve skill and education levels and improve the overall readiness of the National Guard.

Higher Education

- Governor Geringer created a challenge endowment match program for the University of Wyoming.

Teachers

- Governor Geringer led the development of strategies for quality teaching during his term as the chairman of the Education Commission of the States. As a member of the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century, Geringer helped develop recommendations to improve the quality of math and science teaching. Geringer has recently joined the National Commission on Service-Learning, which is working to increase the prevalence of service-learning programs, a teaching method that combines service to the community with K-12 curriculum.

Technology

- Governor Geringer received funding to upgrade technology-training programs for teachers and to implement quality professional development. Through these programs, teachers will receive additional instruction and hands-on experiences in order to effectively use and integrate today's technology and web based instruction into their classroom activities.
- The Wyoming Equality Network has connected nearly 400 schools and 92,000 students across 96,000 square miles of Wyoming via a telecommunications network. This technology change has allowed Governor Geringer to introduce school accountability and standards and improve teacher training. By extending the Wyoming Equality Network contract with its contractor, Qwest, the State of Wyoming has leveraged its resources on the network giving communities a lower overall cost to increase the capacity for voice, video and data communications. Through these leveraging efforts, two-thirds of Wyoming will receive the bandwidth needed for future technologically based growth.