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         Welcome to the "e-Connection" from the
          EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES,
            a weekly publication with links
            to key education information.
         http://www.ecs.org/ecs/e-connection
******************
WHAT STATES ARE DOING
The State of PENNSYLVANIA and the City of Philadelphia
have turned the reins of the Philadelphia schools over
to a special five-person commission in an effort to
raise student achievement and halt financial problems.
The School Reform Commission will be headed by Delaware
County civic leader and entrepreneur James E. Nevels,
who will serve as interim chairman for 30 days until
the full commission is appointed.
http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#ws
GOOD READS
RESEARCH STUDIES IN EDUCATION, like those in science,
should pose significant questions, link to relevant
theory, use research tools appropriate for answering
those questions, generalize to broader populations, and
be made available for professional and public scrutiny,
says the National Research Council. In a report to clarify
the nature of education research, and how the federal
government should support it, the council listed six
principles that should govern all scientific inquiry,
including research into education.
http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#gr
As DATA COLLECTION AND USAGE gain interest with
educators and policymakers across the nation, the latest
issue of ERIC Digest, from the Clearinghouse on
Educational Management, examines these issues. It
outlines the most useful types of data for school
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To: "Hon. Ronnie Musgrove" <governor@governor.state.ms.us>

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mercury.its.state.ms.us (Netscape Messaging Server 4.15) with SMTP id GPBNMG00.533 for <governor@governor.state.ms.us>; Wed, 2

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improvement, the steps that must be taken to collect and analyze the data, the role of administrators in guiding a data-driven reform process, and the results that can be expected. http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#gr

The Center for Media Education has released a new study that surveys the burgeoning MEDIA CULTURE directed at -- and, in some cases, created by -- TEENS. With nearly three-quarters of 12- to 17-year-olds online, the study says the Internet is having a profound and far-reaching impact on the lives of today's youth. It examines the online teen world, from glitzy commercial sites to civic sites that promote political, cultural and community engagement. It also takes a look at some of the next-generation technology

http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#gr

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# NEW ECS PUBLICATIONS

ECS' popular STATE POSTSECONDARY STRUCTURES HANDBOOK has been transformed into an interactive Web database. You can generate profiles of individual states' postsecondary governance structures, compare various states' structures and get 50-state reports.

http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#ep

Strong CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORS, or "authorizers," are the key to greater accountability in these public schools and should be given more attention by policymakers, say the authors of this month's guest column in ECS Governance Notes. Also see more about GOVERNANCE changes in Pennsylvania, Arkansas and West Virginia.

http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#ep

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

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RAYMOND J. McNULTY has been named VERMONT commissioner of education, replacing DAVID WOLK who left to become president of Castleton State College. For the past 12 years, McNulty has been superintendent of the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union in Brattleboro, Vermont, which has received state and national recognition for its work with families and children from birth to age 22. http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#nn

Superintendents from Maryland, Washington, North Carolina and California have been selected as the finalists in the 2002 American Association of School Superintendents' NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR program. Finalists include: Lorraine Costella, Kent County Public Schools, Chestertown, Maryland; R. Stephen Rasmussen, Franklin Pierce School District, Tacoma, Washington; Eric J. Smith, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, North Carolina; and Gail Anderson Uilkema, Piedmont Unified School District, Piedmont, California. http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#nn

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UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

ECS and Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) are bringing together representatives of the seven

McREL states to look at single-state and interstate solutions to the TEACHER SUPPLY PROBLEM FACING RURAL SCHOOLS. schools. The meeting will be held January 30-February 1 in Denver.

http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#um

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OTHER USEFUL WEB SITES

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The NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL has added a "Data Center" that allows users to view data through tables and graphs, compare states and find out which states are the highest performing on particular goal indicators.

http://www.ecs.org/html/newsMedia/e-Connection.asp#ow

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