



**NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Brian Turmail
202/842-3600 x 222
bturmail@hagersharp.com

**TOMMY THOMPSON TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL
EDUCATION GOALS PANEL**

*Wisconsin Governor Will Lead Bipartisan Panel Through National Exploration of Promising
Educational Practices*

WASHINGTON, DC (February 26, 2000) – The National Education Goals Panel announced today that Governor Tommy Thompson (R-Wisc.) was elected by the Panel members to be its new chair for the year 2000. Governor Thompson will lead the bipartisan Panel in a year-long initiative titled “High Achieving Schools: The Promise, The Practice, The Results.”

“High Achieving Schools” will consist of four major components. They are:

- A National Teleconference on April 13 that will focus on how states, districts and schools can embrace and implement Total Quality Management (TQM) and Baldrige criteria in education;
- Four regional hearings in Vermont, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Chicago that will examine issues key to achieving high standards for all students;
- The formation of the Measuring Success Task Force, to be led by former Maine Gov. John “Jock” McKernan, that will make recommendations on data and reporting issues; and,
- A final National Teleconference that will engage the nation by summarizing what has been learned and empower educators to build consensus around promising practices.

“The promise of education reform in the 1990s began with the creation of eight national education goals. Ten years later, we know much about what works in practice – how educators and students can thrive and succeed in a standards-based school environment,” said Gov. Thompson. “During my tenure as chair, the National Education Goals Panel will lead an examination and discussion of results; what works and why, and how we can harness the best practices in education so that all students can succeed.”

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1255 — 22nd Street, N.W., Suite 502 Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 724-0015 www.negp.gov FAX (202) 632-0957

Education has long been one of the governor's main priorities. He holds the distinction of being the only governor still in office who attended the original National Education Summit in Charlottesville, Va. in 1990. That Summit led to the establishment of the National Education Goals and the National Education Goals Panel. Under his leadership, Wisconsin was one of the first states to implement school-to-work and youth apprentice programs. These programs have helped make education more relevant for more than 10,000 students by providing work-based learning experiences in 19 different fields. And, through his leadership as governor, world-class standards are now in place in every school district across Wisconsin.

The announcement of Governor Thompson's election to chair the Panel was made after being elected by the other members of the Panel. The Panel is comprised of eight governors (including Governor Thompson), two members of the Clinton administration, four members of Congress and four state legislators. Thompson will follow in the footsteps of Governor Paul Patton (D-Ky.), who served as chair of the National Education Goals Panel for the last year. The chair of the Goals Panel alternates annually between the Republican and Democrat governors who serve on the Panel.

Governor Thompson took possession of the Chair's gavel today at the conclusion of the Panel's winter meeting here. During Governor Patton's year as the chair, the Panel released a report on reading achievement in states across the nation, a case study on successful reading practices in the state of Connecticut and issued a report on promising practices in education reform. In addition, the Panel released its 9th Annual Goals Report, which garnered worldwide interest and media coverage. A significant achievement of Governor Patton's tenure as chair was the Panel's 10th anniversary commemoration of the National Education Goals that included an in-depth discussion on the future of standards-based reform and round-table discussion by former chairs of the Panel.

About the National Education Goals Panel

Created in July 1990, the National Education Goals Panel is a bipartisan body of federal and state officials made up of eight governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators and two members appointed by the president. To learn more about the Goals Panel, please visit www.negp.gov.

The eight National Education Goals call for greater levels of: student achievement and citizenship; high school completion; teacher education and professional development; parental participation in the schools; literacy and lifelong learning; and safe, disciplined, and alcohol-and-drug-free schools. The Goals also call for all children to be ready to learn by the time they start school and for US students to be first in the world in mathematics and science achievement by the year 2000.

Charge to the Measuring Success Task Force

The Goals Panel will convene and charge a new Measuring Success Task Force in February, 2000, to advise the Panel on:

- 1) the content and format of its regular data progress reports over the next decade;
- 2) the content and format of its End-of-Decade report in 2001; and
- 3) priorities among additional data collections the Panel may request, and strategies for effectively securing such data.

1) **Future Regular Reporting**

Specifically, the new Measuring Success Task Force will prepare a report advising the Panel on future regular data reports of the Goals Panel, including:

- a) Are there new sources of data that the Panel should consider using, (such as the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study for Goal 1)?
 - i) at the national level?
 - ii) at the state level?
- b) Are there new ways to report existing data, (such as selecting new indicators, showing new information in a different way than older data; or routinely reporting new data compared to *both* the baseline year *and* the prior time reported)?
- c) In the absence of a target date like “the year 2000,” should the Panel report progress against interim state and national performance goals, and if so, how should the interim goals be set?
- d) Is it feasible and desirable, in addition to the Panel’s “regular” data reports that use state-comparable data, to issue “special” reports on student achievement that combine NAEP and state assessment results?
- e) Are there new ways the Panel’s data reports can be distributed (including electronic dissemination) and made more useful to state and national policymakers, parents and the general public?

2) **NEGP’s End-of-Decade report in 2001**

Specifically, the new Measuring Success Task Force will advise the Panel on data content and format for its special End-of-the-Decade report as requested both at meetings of the Task Force and by phone inquiry of the staff.

3) **Additional Data Collections the Panel May Request**

A Task Force subgroup of concerned Panel members’ Working Group staff will identify new data collections that would meet NEGP members’ expressed desire for more frequent data; secure information on their cost; propose priorities among the desired data; and recommend a strategy for securing those data.

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