NDN

With only a modest annual appropriation, USOE's expanding National Diffusion Network (NDN) now spans all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. NDN bills itself as a combination of "successful programs and problem-solvers."

This nationwide system offers proven educational alternatives (those programs "validated" by the HEW Education Division's Joint Dissemination Review Panel, familiarly known as JDRP) to meet the needs of children, teachers, and trainers of teachers. The NDN links local school districts, intermediate service agencies, and state education departments—within and across state boundaries—so that successful programs developed in one district and proven effective can be used in other districts facing similar challenges.

Two groups of participants—State Facilitators (SFs) and Developers/Demonstrators (D/Ds)—have received funding from USOE's Division of Educational Replication to assist schools that are searching for ways to improve their educational programs. For a full description of NDN at work, order a copy of NDN: A Success Story ($1.50 prepaid) from LEA Associates, 80 South Main, Concord, New Hampshire 03301. For a free NDN brochure, write Division of Educational Replication, USOE, ROB 3, Room 3616, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

The NDN also publishes a quarterly newsletter, NDN Reporter. For a free subscription, write to Diane McIntyre, Far West Laboratory, 1855 Folsom Street, San Francisco, California 94103. Before the end of the year, the USOE annual catalogue of exemplary programs approved by the JDRP will be released, including a full list of all state facilitator projects. This sixth edition of Educational Programs That Work, describing hundreds of educational alternatives, may be ordered from the Far West Laboratory at $5.50 a copy (payment with order).

94-142

Anyone working with handicapped youngsters of school age should by now have read Progress Toward A Free Appropriate Public Education. This 1979 report to Congress on the implementation of Public Law 94-142 (The Education for All Handicapped Children Act) has been described as one of those background papers that just about every educator needs to be aware of. If your district doesn't have a copy already, you may request one from USOE's Bureau of Education for the Handicapped while the present supply lasts. It's HEW Publication # (OE) 79-05003. Watch for the report in ERIC; the Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children has designated it as EC 120108 in its publication called Exceptional Child Education Resources.

Community

The U.S. Office of Education's Community Education Program makes grants to local education agencies, state agencies, institutions of higher education, and public and private nonprofit organizations for community schools, more efficient use of school facilities, and improved delivery of social programs. If you plan to enter the grants competition this year, request a copy of the proposed regulations (Federal Register, June 29, 1979, pp. 38386-97) and other descriptive materials from Julie Englund, USOE, ROB 3, Room 5622, 7th & D Streets, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202. From the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, you can order the Catalog of Federal Programs Related to Community Education (stock #017-080-01774-1; price $3.75). And from the Mott Foundation, Mott Foundation Building, Flint, Michigan 48502, you can obtain "People Helping People Help Themselves," a booklet that lists and describes centers for community education development and other resources nationwide.

The Federal Community Education Clearinghouse maintains a toll-free "hotline" phone (800/638-6698) and offers a calendar, a project directory, a catalog of resource material, and a user registry. Also you might want to become a member of the National Community Education Association, Suite 536, 1030 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, which "believes that professional educators and interested citizens can work together effectively for the benefit of all."

Decision Making

The Florida Linkage System, with funding from the National Institute of Education, has developed a Solution Analysis Series, four booklets designed to help a faculty decision-making group at the local level search for "best solutions for a problem situation, and plan for implementation and evaluation. The first booklet ("Linaker's Guide") explains how to use the series. Another covers "Narrowing the Alternatives." Then come "Rating the Costs and Benefits" and "Developing a Work Action Plan." A cost-and-benefit rating tool is included. All four booklets cost $5. Order from Office of Dissemination, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

Inservice

From the Teacher Corps program (now one component of USOE's new Bureau of School Improvement) in 1978 emerged Breakaway to Multi-dimensional Approaches: Integrating

Fred Rosenau

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Curriculum Development and Inservice Education. The 172-page paperback volume, edited by Roy A. Edel- felt and E. Brooks Smith, examines several approaches actually underway in schools. William Smith's foreword expresses the expectation that "the ideas contained herein will start a new surge of thinking about the educational, social, and political nature of improving schools." Available for $4.50 from Association of Teacher Educators, 1701 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Innovation

A look at curriculum studies in the past decade appeared recently in Journal of Curriculum Studies (11:1-15; 1979). Ernest House's "Technology Versus Craft: A Ten-Year Perspective on Innovation" reviews the field, saying at one point:

"The shift has been from the innovation, to the innovation-in-context, to the context itself—from the technological to the political to the cultural perspective. Furthermore, the shift has occurred simultaneously across separate fields of inquiry including evaluation, organization theory, and diffusion research."

This is a valuable review, even if it were used only to lead the reader to dig out some of the literature cited by the author.

Math

From an ad hoc testing task force of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics of New York City (ATMNYC) comes a final report called "A Look at Standardized Mathematics Testing in New York City." Included are a survey of teachers (grades three to eight) on kinds of test used and their purpose and value; a review of the five most widely-used tests; and a look at alternatives now in use. Send $1.25 to ATMNYC James Bruni, Lehman College, Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, New York 10468.

Plain Talk

Fed up with gobbledygook in education?
And excess paperwork?

Then you may want to join forces with Plain Talk, a new non-profit citizens' group that's pushing for plain English in public contracts, forms, and regulations. Members receive Plain Talk magazine, can attend meetings and conferences, can use the library and clearinghouse, and can help bring about needed reform. Individual membership is $20 a year. Write Plain Talk, Inc., 1333 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Arts Education

Next time you need fresh ideas in the humanities, turn to Programs That Work, a publication of the Alliance for Arts Education (a joint project of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the U.S. Office of Education). This compact 120-page handbook looks at state programs and those in large and small communities. It also includes listings of resource persons for the arts in education. (Each state, for example, has a state alliance chairperson.) A single complimentary copy (additional copies, $2.50 each) may be requested from the Alliance, State and Local Programs, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. 20566.

Teaching Research

Last spring, Communication Quarterly focused on reading research, with articles headlined "What Do Children Like to Read?" and "Experts' Diagnoses Inconsistent" and "Families, Schools in Conflict" and "In Reading, Teachers Have Their Own Beliefs." If you haven't been receiving—and reading—this publication, write Linda Shalaway, Communication Quarterly, Institute for Research on Teaching, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

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