

ASCD IN ACTION

THE FUTURES PLANNING CONSORTIUMS

ASCD is sponsoring two consortiums to help middle schools and high schools design educational programs appropriate to the future lives of students.

The **High School Futures Planning Consortium** consists of 25 high schools from around the nation. The **Middle School Futures Planning Consortium** includes 20 middle schools. The participating schools vary in size, type of student population, source of support (public or private), surrounding population density, and level of prior planning. All have committed to working two years to improve their strategic planning capability.

Each participating school has agreed to send a four-member team (composed of a board member or parent representative, a central office leader, a principal, and a teacher) to semi-annual meetings. The schools also agreed to set aside time during the 1987-88 school year for work on the planning activity.

Rather than shaping all participating schools in a common mold, these consortiums are helping team members develop skills they can use with their own faculties and communities. Participants are examining the impact of social trends and trends in education on school programs and policies, developing a mission for the school, and developing a five-year plan. This plan will guide action in these areas:

• **Organization.** How can we organize schools to provide



stronger instructional leadership and greater responsiveness to changing conditions in the education community and in society?

• **Curriculum.** What common body of knowledge is most appropriate to prepare students for life in the next century? How should we organize this core curriculum?

• **Instruction.** What long-range plan will achieve significant improvement in teaching? What new roles for teachers should we develop to improve instruction? How can we best foster thinking skills?

• **Technology.** What plan should we develop now to ensure maximum use of new technologies for both school management and instruction?

The **High School Futures Planning Consortium** first convened in July 1987 and has met

three times to date. The **Middle School Futures Planning Consortium** first convened in October 1986 and has met four times; a final meeting is scheduled for May 1989. Reports of the work of both consortiums will appear in future ASCD publications.

ASCD'S MISSION:
DEVELOPING
LEADERSHIP FOR
QUALITY IN
EDUCATION FOR
ALL STUDENTS

ASCD



TAKE ACTION

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TAKE NOTE

You can get up-to-date information quickly by using ASCD's new On-Line User's Center, a computerized data retrieval system. The Center offers access to two commercial information sources: DIALOG (all subjects) and DIALOG ERIC-On-Disc (education research, practice, and statistics). Fees are \$25 per topical search for ASCD members and \$50 for nonmembers; members must provide their membership numbers. To take advantage of this service, contact ASCD's Research and Information Department by letter, by phone, or in person during regular working hours.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Annual Conferences
1989, Orlando, March 11-14
1990, San Antonio, March 3-6
1991, San Francisco, March 16-19
1992, New Orleans, April 4-7

Upcoming Mini-Conferences
November 14-16, 1988,
Restructuring Schools for Results,
Alexandria, Virginia
December 7-9, 1988, New Trends
in Kindergarten Programming,
Alexandria, Virginia
April 10-12, 1989, Staff
Development Implementation
Models, Alexandria, Virginia
August 9-11, 1989, Thinking Skills,
Alexandria, Virginia

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