Today public schools of choice are one of the most talked about strategies of school reform. After six years of reform effort, this policy option has caught fire with the public. The President of the United States, governors, economists, school critics, respondents to the Gallup Poll—all find choice attractive, albeit for diverse reasons.

ASCD has long stood for quality education. Further, ASCD values balance in the curriculum, self-direction, equity, and cultural pluralism, each of which has a strong relationship to schools of choice. Many of our members are being affected by state or local choice policies. These considerations make choice a "natural" topic for ASCD.

Last December, ASCD convened a policy panel to examine public schools of choice. The nine-member committee includes chair Paul E. Heckman, assistant dean of the College of Education, University of Arizona; Barbara T. Jackson, executive assistant to the superintendent of the District of Columbia Public Schools; Asa Hilliard, III, professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, Georgia State University; Stephen Bing, executive director of the Massachusetts Advocacy Center; Richard Elmore, senior research fellow at the Center for Policy Research in Education, Michigan State University; Gil Valdez, manager of the Instructional Design Section, Minnesota Department of Education; Douglas Pearson, superintendent of the Asheville, N.C., City Public Schools; Educational Leadership Managing Editor Anne Meek; and ASCD Director of Field Services Diane Berreth.

The panel will present its analysis March 4, 1990, at the ASCD Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas; look for Session 3104 at 10:45 a.m. in the Convention Center, River Level, River Room A. The analysis will also be published as an ASCD comprehensive member book later this spring. For more information, noncomprehensive members may contact the ASCD Order Processing Department: (703) 549-9110, ext. 203.

Photograph by Robert S. Starr, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia
Join the Network for Restructured Schools, which promotes discussion on restructuring issues and cooperation among administrators and school leaders at both school district and university levels. The network solicits information on school restructuring and seeks to communicate about particular concerns in school restructuring. For information, contact:

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Any active ASCD member who has reached the age of 55 and is no longer employed in education may apply for a retired membership, at rates half the cost of regular and comprehensive memberships. Those applying for retired membership must submit proof of age and retirement with their applications.

Retired membership applications can be obtained by contacting the ASCD Member Relations Department at (703) 549-9110, ext. 219.

Upcoming Annual Conferences
1990, San Antonio, March 3–6
1992, New Orleans, April 4–7
1993, Washington, D.C., March 27–30

Upcoming Mini-Conferences
April 2–4, 1990, Exploring Learning Styles Models, Scottsdale, Az.
May 16–18, 1990, Rethinking the Curriculum for the Next Decade, Washington, D.C.