

# Archived Information

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## **Goal 1. Help all children reach challenging academic standards, so that they are prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment.**

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A high-quality education system is essential for America's future prosperity. Today's students will, within a few years, participate in our political system and our economy. To prepare them to make productive contributions, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) will continue to assist state and local educators, decision makers, and families in reforming and revitalizing education at all levels.

So that all students will be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment, the U.S. Department of Education will continue to focus on the areas that are central to improving and maintaining high standards of learning for everyone. ED is committed to pursuing strategies that help American schools provide students with equal opportunities to excel. This means ensuring that the following seven objectives are met:

**Objective 1.1: States develop challenging standards and assessments for all students in the core academic subjects.** All students must have the opportunity to attain educational excellence, which will only happen if schools are held accountable for helping students achieve.

**Objective 1.2: Schools help all students make successful transitions to college and careers.** By improving the connection between real work situations and the classroom, and by increasing access to further education and training, we can inspire students to strive for excellence, and we can ensure that they make a smooth transition to future careers.

**Objective 1.3: Schools are strong, safe, disciplined, and drug-free.** If students are to learn effectively, schools must provide safe and drug-free environments.

**Objective 1.4: A talented and dedicated teacher is in every classroom in America.** Teachers, who are well prepared and highly skilled, support, encourage, and inspire student excellence.

**Objective 1.5: Families and communities are fully involved with schools and school improvement efforts.** When families are involved in their children's education, learning improves. When families are involved in schools, schools improve. Family involvement is an essential part of ensuring educational excellence.

**Objective 1.6: Greater public school choice will be available to students and families.** Public school choice can help schools address the needs and interests of students and families, fostering improved learning.

**Objective 1.7: Schools use advanced technology for all students and teachers to improve education.** When used effectively, with appropriate training and other support, technology can significantly improve teaching and learning.

As part of the process of reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Department is exploring ways to strengthen the legislation so that all students will meet high standards of learning; the capacity of schools and teachers to provide a high-quality education will increase; and accountability for educational results in states, districts, and schools will be supported. By pursuing key strategies in these areas—including financial support, technical assistance, dissemination of innovative approaches, coordination with state initiatives and the efforts of other Federal agencies, and research and evaluation—the U.S. Department of Education is fostering educational excellence and success for all students.