

Archived Information

The U.S. Department of Education's Report on FY 2000 Performance: An Interim Document

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is committed to achieving our mission by holding ourselves accountable for results while increasing flexibility, and implementing strategic program and management improvement reforms. The Department's focus is increasingly on people, ideas, and results, not processes and paperwork.

This *interim document* is a performance report on FY 2000 Department-wide goals and objectives. Education reform is a cornerstone of new Administration domestic proposals and major new legislation is pending before the Congress, based on the President's No Child Left Behind proposal. However, until the final legislation has been completed, these reform efforts cannot be fully and accurately reflected in a Department plan. The new senior leadership team is also only partially in place. Once the senior leadership team is fully in place, the Department will prepare a new Strategic Plan consistent with Administration priorities in education.

Government Performance and Results Act

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) was designed as a major strategy to reform the way the Federal government does business. It requires federal agencies to establish agency-wide strategic plans, develop performance goals for the money they expend, link the plans and goals to their budget, measure progress toward the goals, and publicly report on the results.

GPRA requires that Federal agencies develop strategic plans covering a period of at least five years and submit them to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Department of Education's first strategic plan, submitted in 1997, laid out a plan for years 1998 - 2002. Strategic plans outline the mission and goals of the organization, how it plans to attain those goals. The GPRA strategic plans must include:

- A comprehensive mission statement based on the agencies' statutory requirements;
- A set of outcome-related strategic goals; and
- A description of how the agencies intend to achieve those goals.

Beginning with FY1999, Federal agencies were required to develop annual performance plans. These performance plans identify the year's objectives, strategies to attain those objectives, and measures of performance in meeting those objectives. Annual performance plans are tied to agencies' budget requests. The underlying premise of GPRA is that with relevant, reliable, and timely performance information will facilitate congressional policymaking, and budgetary decisions. Further, it is designed to ensure that the resources spent achieve the expected results and outputs.

Finally, federal agencies were required to report annually on actual performance compared with performance targets. Annual performance reports serve as an accounting of the Department's progress toward its goals and strategies employed toward achieving its goals. These reports are submitted to Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and made available to the public. The Department of Education has combined its annual performance plans and annual performance reports to provide a full picture of program performance in previous years and plans for the coming year.

How This Year's Report Is an Interim Document

Typically, the Department of Education's Annual Plan/Report is divided into two volumes, a structure that had been maintained for the last three years. Due to the fact that the new administration is still appointing new leadership and the President's No Child Left Behind proposal is under review by Congress, the following changes have been made this year:

1. This report contains information on the Department's FY 2000 performance on the goals and objectives in the 1998-2002 Strategic Plan, but does not contain plans for 2002.
2. A Department-wide Annual Performance Plan for 2002 will be submitted with a new multi-year strategic plan by September 30, 2001.