

## **APPENDIX A:**

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES**

To reach our strategic goals, we must build strong partnerships and alliances with our counterparts across the federal government. Below is a brief overview of the highlights of some of our collaborative initiatives with partnering agencies.

#### **Creating a Culture of Achievement**

We work closely with the Department of the Treasury to expand parental options in education. For example, we collaborate with Treasury to promote Coverdell Education Savings Accounts and to develop the proposed education tax credit for children trapped in failing schools.

#### **Improving Student Achievement**

We will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services to improve educational services to preschool children, especially those from underserved populations. We participate with HHS in a joint task force to translate research on early cognitive development and pre-literacy into action through federal preschool programs. Additionally, we participated with the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the National Institutes of Health in a summit on early childhood cognitive development.

We will continue to partner with the National Science Foundation to promote improved instruction in mathematics and science, and to coordinate our professional development programs for teachers. NSF also cooperates with us on research and international assessments related to mathematics and science.

Education has worked with NASA to emphasize the importance of math and science education and the need to work more closely with our neighbors around the world by holding live discussions between elementary school students and astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Education will continue to work with the Department of Defense Education Activities team, which will better inform the Pentagon and DOD schools in serving as a laboratory for the President's education initiatives.

We partner with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to promote equitable access to high quality, standards-driven education for all American Indian and Alaska Native students. Additionally, we cooperate in an interagency agreement with the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor to improve collaboration with Indian tribes.

### **Developing Safe Schools and Strong Character**

Our Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program in our Office of Elementary and Secondary Education works in partnership with the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to promote drug and alcohol education programs and information dissemination to schools and private organizations. We coordinate closely with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Education works closely with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs to share innovative ideas and promote prevention strategies and programs.

### **Transforming Education into an Evidence-Based Field**

The Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement collaborates with other federal research agencies, such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institute for Child Health and Development, to support and disseminate high quality research on a number of topics, including reading comprehensive and science education.

### **Enhancing the Quality of and Access to Postsecondary and Adult Education**

The Department will continue to collaborate with several federal agencies, including Labor, on issues including adult literacy, career awareness, access to quality postsecondary education, and school completion among students from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. For example, we partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation to create career awareness in aviation at the elementary and secondary school levels and to improve skills in math, science, technology, and computer literacy.

## **Establishing Management Excellence**

The Department will continue to work closely with the Office of Management and Budget, the General Account Office, and the Office of Personnel Management to address longstanding management challenges and establish management excellence.

To improve strategic management of the Department's human resources, we work with the Office of Personnel Management to develop core competencies for our workforce, especially those in the Senior Executive Service. The Department participates in forums with the National Academy of Public Administration and the Human Resources Consortium on issues such as work force planning, human capital management, and results-based performance planning.

Education participates in electronic government initiatives with the Federal CIO Council to better direct the strategic management of federal information technology resources and to modernize our information technology resources. We work with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and the Small Business Administration to maximize the use of performance-based requirements in financial management, research and analysis, and information dissemination.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) conducts data matches to ensure that only eligible students receive financial aid. Agencies with whom the Department matches applicant information include the Selective Service System, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Justice. In tracking defaulters on student loans, OSFA works with a wide range of federal agencies including the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Departments of Defense, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, and Health and Human Services.

The Department of Education and each of its program offices maintains a close relationship with state and local educational agencies. The work of the Department would not be possible without the advice and collaboration of educators at the state and local levels. Secretary Paige has instituted a series of meetings with chief state school officers to build partnerships for the implementation of "No Child Left Behind" and other Departmental

priorities. The Secretary's Regional Representatives maintain communication with state and local partners on these priorities. The highly successful Improving America's Schools regional conferences provide an opportunity for Department outreach to and dialogue with education practitioners at all levels in the field of education.

The Department participates as part of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives that includes the departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Housing and Urban Development and Labor and works closely with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to improve student achievement and promote strong character and citizenship among our nation's youth.