

Archived Information

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

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 assists state and local educators, decision makers, and families in reforming and revitalizing education at all levels.

To prepare all students for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment, the Education Department focuses on the areas that are central to improving and maintaining high standards of learning for everyone. The Education Department 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 occurs 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, the Education Department inspires students to strive for excellence, and ensures 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 is 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.