

Education Council Act of 1991

[Public Law 102-62; 20 U.S.C. 1221-1 note]

[As Amended Through P.L. 103-290, Enacted August 1, 1994]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 106-62. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>】

【Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).】

AN ACT To authorize appropriations to establish a National Education Commission on Time and Learning and a National Council on Education Standards and Testing, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Education Council Act of 1991”.

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TITLE I—NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMISSION ON TIME
AND LEARNING

SEC.¹ 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Education Commission on Time and Learning Act”.

SEC. 102. NATIONAL EDUCATION COMMISSION ON TIME AND LEARNING.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established a National Education Commission on Time and Learning (hereafter in this title referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall consist of nine members, of whom—

(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”);

(B) 3 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

(C) 3 members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) After consultation among the appointing authorities, members of the Commission shall be appointed on the basis of exceptional education, training, or experience from among—

(i) the Nation’s Governors;

(ii) individuals from the business community;

(iii) individuals who are engaged in the profession of teaching;

(iv) individuals engaged in school administration, members of school boards, and parents or representatives of parents or parent organizations;

(v) State officials directly responsible for education;

(vi) Federal officials responsible for education policy;

(vii) educational researchers with experience relevant to the Commission’s work;

(viii) Members of Congress and State legislators; and

(ix) representatives of nonprofit organizations or foundations which work to expand educational opportunities for children outside of school hours.

(3) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(4) **TERMS.**—Members of the Commission shall be appointed to serve for the life of the Commission.

¹ So in original. Should be “SEC.”.

(5) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, when engaged in the performance of Commission duties.

(6) ACTIVITY OF COMMISSION.—The Commission may begin to carry out its duties under this subsection when at least 5 members of the Commission have been appointed.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) STUDY.—The Commission shall examine the quality and adequacy of the study and learning time of elementary and secondary students in the United States, including issues regarding the length of the school day and year, the extent and role of homework, how time is being used for academic subjects, year-round professional opportunities for teachers, and the use of school facilities for extended learning programs.

(2) REPORT.—The Commission shall submit a final report under subsection (d). The report shall include an analysis and recommendations concerning—

(A) the length of the academic day and the academic year in elementary and secondary schools throughout the United States and in schools of other nations;

(B) the time children spend in school learning academic subjects such as English, mathematics, science, history, and geography;

(C) the use of incentives for students to increase their educational achievement in available instruction time;

(D) how children spend their time outside school with particular attention to how much of that time can be considered “learning time” and how out-of-school activities affect intellectual development;

(E) the time children spend on homework, how much of that time is spent on academic subjects, the importance that parents and teachers attach to homework, and the extent to which homework contributes to student learning;

(F) year-round professional opportunities for teachers and how teachers can use their time to acquire knowledge and skills that will permit them to improve their performance and help raise the status of the profession;

(G) how school facilities are used for extended learning programs;

(H) the appropriate number of hours per day and days per year of instruction for United States public elementary and secondary schools;

(I) if appropriate, a model plan for adopting a longer academic day and academic year for use by United States elementary and secondary schools by the end of this decade, including recommendations regarding mechanisms to assist States, school districts, schools, and parents in making the transition from the current academic day and year to an academic day and year of a longer duration;

(J) suggestions for such changes in laws and regulations as may be required to facilitate States, school dis-

tricts, and schools in adopting longer academic days and years; and

(K) an analysis and estimate of the additional costs, including the cost of increased teacher compensation, to States and local school districts if longer academic days and years are adopted.

(d) COMMISSION REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the Commission concludes its first meeting, the Commission shall submit a final report to the Congress and the Secretary on the study and any recommendations required pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(e) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, conduct such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission considers appropriate.

(2) TESTIMONY; PUBLIC HEARINGS.—In carrying out this section, the Commission shall receive testimony and conduct public hearings in different geographic areas of the country, both urban and rural, to receive the reports, views, and analyses of a broad spectrum of experts and the public regarding the quality and adequacy of the time devoted to study and learning.

(3) INFORMATION.—The Commission may secure directly from any Federal agency such information, relevant to its functions, as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out this subsection. Upon request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of the agency shall, to the extent permitted by law, furnish such information to the Commission.

(4) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of money, services, or property, for the purpose of aiding the work of the Commission.

(5) USE OF MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as the department and agencies of the United States.

(6) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis such reasonable administrative and support services as the Commission may request.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

(1) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet on a regular basis, as necessary, at the call of the Chairman or a majority of its members.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—

(A) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission shall be elected by and from the members of the Commission.

(B) The Commission shall appoint a staff director, who shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, and such professional and clerical personnel as may be reasonable and necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions without regard to the provisions of

title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, or of any other provision of law, relating to the number, classification, and General Schedule rates, except that no employee, other than the staff director, may be compensated at a rate to exceed the maximum rate applicable to level 15 of the General Schedule.

(4) OTHER FEDERAL PERSONNEL.—Upon request of the Chairman of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency is authorized to detail, without reimbursement, any personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this title. Such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(g) TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission shall terminate on September 30, 1994.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994 to carry out the provisions of this title.

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TITLE IV—NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION STANDARDS AND TESTING

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Council on Education Standards and Testing Act”.

SEC. 402. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to create a national council to provide advice on the desirability and feasibility of national standards and testing in education.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) organizations have begun developing national education standards for various subject areas and grade levels;

(2) groups have called for the expansion of national testing for school children;

(3) decisions regarding the desirability and feasibility of additional national testing should follow such decisions on national standards for education;

(4) efforts regarding national standards and testing should be undertaken with the broadest possible participation by the public; and

(5) a major national council is needed to assure broad participation by the public, to provide a focus for national debate on national education standards and testing, and to provide advice on the desirability and feasibility of developing national standards and testing.

SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a council to be known as the National Council on Education Standards and Testing (in this title referred to as the “Council”).

SEC. 404. DUTIES.

The Council shall advise the American people on—

(1) whether suitable specific education standards should and can be established, such as world class standards, for—

(A) the knowledge and skills that students should possess and that schools should impart in order that American students leave grades 4, 8, and 12 demonstrating competency in challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and

(B) every school in America to ensure that all students learn to use their minds well so that they will be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy; and

(2) whether, while respecting State and local control of education, an appropriate system of voluntary national tests or examinations should and can be established, such as American achievement tests, that will provide prompt, accurate information to parents, educators, and policymakers on the progress being made toward the specific education standards by individual students, schools, school systems, States, and the Nation as a whole (if such standards can be established). The goal of any such system shall be to foster good teaching and learning, as well as to monitor performance.

SEC. 405. REPORTS.

(a) **FINAL REPORT.**—The Council shall, as soon as possible, but not later than December 31, 1991, submit a report to the Congress, the Secretary of Education, and the National Education Goals Panel that contains recommendations regarding long-term policies, structures, mechanisms, and other important considerations with respect to the objectives described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 404. A discussion of the validity, reliability, fairness, and costs of implementing a system of voluntary national tests or examinations shall also be included in such report.

(b) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Council may submit to the Congress, the Secretary of Education, and the National Education Goals Panel interim reports it considers appropriate.

SEC. 406. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Council shall be composed of 32 members as follows:

(1) The Secretary of Education shall appoint 22 members to include at least one representative from each of the following:

(A) The Administration.

(B) The Commission on Achievement of Necessary Skills.

(C) The National Assessment Governing Board.

(D) State legislators.

(E) Chief State school officers.

(F) School administrators.

(G) Elementary or secondary school teachers.

(H) Institutions of higher education.

(I) Individuals with expertise in education standards and testing.

(J) National teacher organizations.

(2) The Chairperson or a designee of the National Education Goals Panel.

(3) The Governor designated to serve as Chairperson of the National Education Goals Panel for the year succeeding the year in which such panel is meeting (or a designee).

(4) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 1 member (excluding Members of Congress).

(5) The minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 1 member (excluding Members of Congress).

(6) The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint 1 member (excluding Members of Congress).

(7) The minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 1 member (excluding Members of Congress).

(8) The Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House or a designee.

(9) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House or a designee.

(10) The Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate or a designee.

(11) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate or a designee.

(b) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Council shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(c) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Council.

(d) QUORUM.—17 members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

(e) COCHAIRPERSONS.—The Chairperson of the National Education Goals Panel or a designee and the Governor designated to serve as the Chairperson for the succeeding year in which the panel is meeting (or a designee) shall serve as cochairpersons of the Council upon the date of the enactment of this title.

(f) COMPENSATION.—

(1) MEMBERS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Council shall each be reimbursed at a rate not to exceed the rate of pay for level III of the Executive Schedule for each day (including travel time) during which they are engaged in the performance of duties vested in the Council.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Members of the Council who are fulltime officers or employees of the United States or Members of Congress shall receive no additional compensation by reason of their service on the Council

SEC. 407. DIRECTOR AND STAFF; EXPERT AND CONSULTANTS.

(a) DIRECTOR.—The cochairpersons of the Council shall, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code relating to the appointment and compensation of officers or employees of the United States, appoint a Director to be paid at a rate not to exceed the rate of basic pay for level III of the Executive Schedule.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND PAY OF STAFF.—The cochairpersons may appoint personnel as they consider appropriate without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments to the competitive service. The staff of the Council may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter

III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates. The rate of pay of the staff of the Council shall not exceed the rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule.

(c) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—The Council may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(d) **STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Upon the request of the Council, the head of any department or agency of the United States is authorized to detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that agency to the Council to assist the Council in its duties under this title.

SEC. 408. POWERS OF COUNCIL.

(a) **HEARINGS.**—The Council may, for the purpose of this title, hold hearings, sit and act at the times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence, the Council considers appropriate. The Council may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it.

(b) **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Any member or agent of the Council may, if authorized by the Council, take any action the Council is authorized to take by this section.

(c) **INFORMATION.**—The Council may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this title. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Council, the head of a department or agency shall furnish the information to the Council to the extent permitted by law.

(d) **GIFTS AND DONATIONS.**—Subject to the regulations established under paragraph (2), the Council may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(2) The Cochairpersons of the Council are authorized to establish regulations setting forth the criteria the Council shall use to determine whether the acceptance of gifts or donations of services under paragraph (1) would reflect unfavorably upon the ability of the Council or any employee to carry out its responsibilities or official duties in a fair and objective manner, or would compromise the integrity of or the appearance of the integrity of a government program or any official involved in such program.

(e) **MAILS.**—The Council may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(f) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The Secretary of Education shall provide to the Council, on a reimbursable basis, administrative support services as the Council may request.

SEC. 409. FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

Sections 10 and 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) are the only sections of such Act that shall apply with respect to the Council.

SEC. 410. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this title which shall remain available until expended or until the termination of the Council, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 411. TERMINATION.

The Council will cease to exist 90 days after submitting its final report.