

Education . . .

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The report includes recommendations in four areas: curricula and standards, teaching, time and learning environment, and public support, funding and governance.

In the area of curricula and standards, the task force suggests that the Nebraska Department of Education revise accreditation standards to include curricula improvements. They recommend a minimum "core curriculum" which would include:

- four years each of English, mathematics, social studies and fine/performing arts.
- three years each of science, personal health and fitness, and career/vocational education.
- two years each of foreign language and computer education.

The task force also recommends minimum graduation requirements, which would include:

- four years of English/language arts.
- three years each of mathematics/ computer education and social studies.
- two years of foreign language and/or career/vocational education, science and fine/performing arts.
- one and a half years of personal health/fitness.

In addition, the report endorses efforts by Nebraska colleges and universities to raise admissions standards and recommends that schools identify and provide for the needs of gifted students as well as those with learning disabilities.

Those recommendations go a little farther than the ones made by the National Commission on Excellence in Education's report, "A Nation at Risk." The national report requires the same amounts of English, mathematics, science and social studies,

but not as much computer education, foreign language or vocational education.

In respect to time and learning environment, the Nebraska report recommends that the school year be lengthened from 175 five-hour days to 180 six-hour days. Those figures compare to a 200- to 220-day school year of seven-hour days recommended in "A Nation at Risk."

The Nebraska commission's report calls for all extracurricular activities to be scheduled outside of the school day.

It also suggest that school facilities be available for voluntary use by students and staff during summer months and that class size be more carefully controlled.

In the area of teaching, the Nebraska Task Force defines "the essential ingredients of quality" as the teacher's "knowledge of the subject matter," ability to interact with and relate to students" and the ability to "use materials and techniques appropriate to the learning needs of students."

In order to avoid hiring teachers who lack those qualities, the task force recommends screening prospective teachers before they get a certificate.

The report also says that "continuing contract laws (tenure) . . . should not stand in the way of dismissing ineffective teachers."

Those recommendations basically agree with those in "A Nation at Risk," which outlines more specifically the duties of master teachers and calls for immediate action on the shortage of mathematics and science teachers.

Finally, the Nebraska report calls for an increase in state aid to education to 50 percent of the total cost of public education. It also recommends a reorganization of the state's school systems.

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Shorts

Victor Papanek, architecture professor at the University of Kansas-Lawrence will speak today at 4 p.m. in the Sheldon Art Gallery auditorium on "Design Ethics." Papanek's speech is part of the Architecture Hyde Speakers program.

Former McCook college students meet with Dr. Jo Keeler Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Nebraska Union 225G.

A Nebraska Symposium on Motivation will be Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. The symposium on "Psychology and Gender" will continue through Friday.

June Davis, director of women's athletics at UNL, will be the featured speaker at this month's YWCA "Womanspirit" meeting Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. Davis will speak on personal enrichment through fitness. The free presentation is open to the public.

People interested in learning about health and self-health care measures can participate in a hypertension class sponsored by the American Red Cross.

"Learning to Take your Blood Pressure," is at Health Central, 17th and N streets, from 7 to 10 p.m. It is usually offered monthly. The class could be especially important for hypertense individuals who want to monitor and keep a record of their blood pressure. The class, which includes information, technique and practice time, costs \$2. To register for a monthly meeting, call the Red Cross at 475-5581.

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