

Research helps establish goals

Governor Hammond's administrative order creating the Task Force on Effective Schooling specified that a review of education research be one of the three main objectives of the task force's work and final report.

With the help of a non-profit educational research agency, the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory, the task force examined a broad range of educational research in six major education topics selected by the members as important to effective schooling.

One of the goals was to make the results of research more available to local citizens so people could measure their own schools according to easily accessible

standards developed through research. The task force felt that ready access to information would help local citizens determine the quality of schooling provided in terms of local schools meeting conditions which research indicates are necessary for the best possible learning environment.

Stressing that they would like to see research efforts continue on these and other topics in the future, task force members selected the following six topics as the ones they considered most important in this first effort:

- Parent participation: Does parent involvement with the schools affect a child's performance in school?
- The principal as instructional leader: What leadership traits provide the best school learning environment? Should the principal become more involved in the classroom than has been the case traditionally?
- Class size: How does class size affect the learning process? Are small classes better than large classes, and where are small groups most important?