

# *Preface*



If there is anything that is constant about education, it is that it will change. In 1916, John Dewey, contemplating the impact of industrialism on American society, wrote, “Democracy has to be born anew each generation, and education is its midwife.”

The demands on public education have continued to expand as the needs of today’s citizens are reflected in our rapidly evolving American society. Initially established to educate the masses in the three Rs, American schools have now been redefined at the national and state levels, taking into consideration both the ills and the concerns of today’s rapidly changing and complex society.

In 1993, President George Bush and the National Governors’ Association’s Blue Ribbon Committee on the Nation’s Educational Goals proposed a blueprint for the year 2000:

1. All children in America will start school ready to learn.
2. The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.
3. American students will leave grades four, eight, and twelve having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter, including English, mathematics, science, history,

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

4. U. S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.
5. Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
6. Every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning. (Goals 2000: Achieving the Nation's Educational Goals. A Phi Delta Kappa Working Paper.)
7. All New Jersey parents will be involved in their children's education. (New Jersey State Department of Education's Goals for New Jersey Schools.)

The New Jersey Department of Education has adopted these goals for all of its schools and has added a seventh goal, dealing with parent/community involvement. Only two of the seven goals are academic in nature, while the remaining five goals deal with social issues and serve a much broader spectrum than traditional schooling. America's schools, for the next decade and beyond, will address learning from the cradle to the grave, and from a much broader multicultural perspective.

In the future, schools must accept a greater responsibility for meeting our country's goals. The schools alone can no longer be expected to educate students at current levels of funding and within the old one-hundred-eighty-day school year. Schools of the 1990s must actively recruit and attract the participation of a much broader community, including parents and guardians, social service departments, small and large businesses, legal and law enforcement sectors, adult and high school volunteers, and anyone else in the community who can contribute to the growth and development of students of all ages.

The definition of education in the next century will have to expand to include the meaning of an old African adage: "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

*Carl L. Calliari*  
Professor, School of Education  
and Related Professional Studies