

**NCES Announces the Release of
Teachers' Tools for the 21st Century: A Report on
Teachers' Use of Technology**

As the availability of computers and the Internet have grown, so has interest in understanding the extent of their use. In 1999, NCES administered a survey of public school teachers using the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS). This report draws on that survey to describe teachers' use of education technology in the classroom, the availability of technology and the training teachers received in using the technology. Additional data were drawn from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the Current Population Survey (CPS).

Some key findings are:

1. Nearly all teachers reported having computers available somewhere in their school, while approximately half who had computers or Internet access used them for classroom instruction.
2. Schools with low minority enrollment were more likely to have access to the Internet in the classroom than schools with high minority enrollment (70% to 51%).
3. Approximately one-third of teachers felt well prepared to use computers.
4. Teachers cited independent learning most frequently as preparing them to use technology (92%), followed by professional development activities (88%).
5. Most teachers indicated that professional development activities were available on software applications and basic computer training (ranging from 96% to 87%).

Copies of *Teachers' Tools for the 21st Century* are available by calling 1-877-433-7827 or by ordering via the Internet: www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html

Tip of the CSAANYS Coif.....

Sister Katherine Arseneau, principal of Catholic Central High in Troy, received the Leadership Award in Character Education from the Academy for Character Education at Hudson Valley Community College. Sister Katherine was honored for the leadership role she has played in helping a variety of schools to initiate programs in character education. Congratulations!!!

2001 NCEA CONVENTION

Some 14,000 teachers and administrators enjoyed the 2001 NCEA convention in Milwaukee during Easter Week. Featured speakers, especially Archbishop Rembert Weakland and Sister Joan Chittister, had standing-room only crowds and the individual workshop sessions overflowed into the hallways of the convention center.

The convention was marked by the announcement of the new NCEA president, Michael Guerra, currently the Executive Director of the Secondary Schools Department of NCEA. He will succeed Dr. Leonard DeFiore, who is leaving to take a teaching post at Catholic University in Washington, DC. Mr. Guerra is succeeded in Secondary by Assistant Director Sister Mary Frances Taymans.

At the convention, Sister Lorraine Burns, SSND, principal of Holy Family School in Rochester was honored at a banquet as Outstanding Elementary Principal from New York State.

Next year's convention will take place at the new Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ April 2-5, 2002. The headquarters hotel will be the Sheraton at the convention center.

The 2002 convention is on the East Coast, and we hope that many of our administrators and teachers will consider attending.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

This is a season to monitor. On the federal level the President's education program and the re-authorization of the ESEA are on the agenda for consideration in Congress. After the holiday more definitive legislation will emerge.

As you know New York State is again late with its budget. The Governor has submitted a budget; the Assembly and Senate have also presented budgets. The differences among them are significant and need to be addressed in conference. When will it be done? Estimates are that it could be as late as early fall. There is not the same urgency as there was last year to resolve the differences. This is not a major election year and the need to be free to campaign is not as pressing. At the moment there is nothing to report on specifics of what we are entitled to receive. We will send it to you as soon as we know; if it is not at a time for a newsletter, we will post it on our website: csaanys.org.

In addition to the state issues reported in the last newsletter, these are the points we are advocating:

- **Parental Choice:** Recognizing a parent's fundamental responsibility and right to direct his/her child's education, we urge enactment of a program to provide all parents, especially needy parents, with the financial means to choose their child's school, whether public, charter, independent, religious or private.
- **Transportation:** (1) Increase the maximum distance school districts are required to transport children to school from 15 to 25 miles, (2) allow parents the option to pay for the cost of transportation beyond the state mileage limit, (3) ensure that transportation is not disrupted when public schools make mid-year calendar changes, (4) require small city school districts to transport children up to the maximum mileage limit rather than city limits, and (5) provide 100% reimbursement to school districts for the costs of transporting students to religious, private and independent schools.
- **Sufficient Resources for Teacher Training:** Ensure that religious, private, and independent school teachers have the opportunity to participate in meaningful and sustained training programs so that their students will be able to meet the more rigorous academic standards recently imposed by the NYS Board of Regents.
- **Mandated Services Aid:** To ensure adequate levels of funding for Mandated Services Aid to cover actual expenses directly associated with the implementation of the new assessment standards and reporting requirements.
- **Education Investment Tax Credit:** Establish a 50% tax credit to encourage greater corporate and individual donations to all schools, thereby enabling school officials and educators to continue, expand and begin valuable programs that benefit all children.
- **Textbook, Computer Software and Library Materials Aid:** Ensure that the Governor and legislature maintain and accelerate their commitment to multi-year increases in textbook and software aid as well as provide multi-year increases for library materials aid.
- **Learning Technology Grants:** Increase the appropriation \$3.29 million so that all schools can benefit from this program.