

# Of Interest to Teachers

## More Teachers Taking National Certification Tests

As of October 2000, only 4,804 U.S. teachers had earned the certificate awarded by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, with an additional 4,500 teachers expected to receive the credential in November 2000. The test is an attempt to give teachers the professional respect—and some of the increased salary—that accrues to doctors, lawyers, and accountants in the United States.

To earn the certificate, teachers must fulfill a number of requirements, including the production of portfolios with student work samples, successfully performing four 90-minute computer exercises that test their ability to handle different classroom situations, and showing evidence of involvement with parents and community groups. The process takes about 10 months and costs about \$2,300 per teacher. Fewer than half of the applicants have won certification.

Thirty-nine states have approved extra compensation for teachers who have national certificates, often raising their salaries by about \$5,000 a year. The program is also likely to raise the standards for teacher training, according to Gary Galluzzo, executive vice-president of the board.

Established in 1987 by the major teacher organizations and several governors and education experts, the board has an annual budget of \$24 million supported by foundations and federal grants.

According to an article in the *Washington Post*, "Many educators hope that once parents see a nationally certified teacher in their child's classroom, they will be less likely to demand frequent student testing as proof of teacher competence—testing that wastes time better spent on enriching instruction, many teachers believe."

Detractors say the program has

not proved itself and want to see more research on whether nationally certified teachers succeed in raising student achievement. The board plans to release a study showing that board-certified teachers excel in practices associated with effective teaching. Although the board is working on ways to measure improvement among students, it acknowledges that it will be years before they have enough data to settle the argument.—Reported in "A Measure of Respect," by Jay Mathews, *Washington Post*, October 10, 2000, p. A11.

## U.S. Private School Enrollment Remains Steady

U.S. private school enrollment has changed little over the past decade, with 11 percent of all elementary and secondary students attending private schools. Total private school enrollment at the elementary and secondary levels was estimated at six million students in fall 1999. These figures do not include home-schooled

children. An estimated 800,000 to one million students were being home-schooled in 1997-1998.—U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 1999*.

## Minority Students in U.S. Public Schools

The proportion of minority students in U.S. public elementary and secondary schools increased be-

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## Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Students in U.S. Public Elementary and Secondary Schools: Fall 1986 and Fall 1997

Race/Ethnicity of student	Fall 1986	Fall 1997
White, non-Hispanic	70.4	63.5
Minority	29.7	36.5
Black, non-Hispanic	16.1	17.0
Hispanic	9.9	14.4
Other, non-Hispanic	3.7	5.0

tween 1986 and 1997. The proportion of Hispanics in public elementary and secondary schools increased at a greater rate than that of blacks.—U.S. Department of Education National Center for Educational Statistics, *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 1999*.

## Private College Revenue

U.S. private colleges depend heavily upon tuition for revenues, receiving 43 percent from this source in 1995. In contrast, public colleges receive much of their revenue—40 percent—from state and local governments.—U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, *Mini-Digest of Education Statistics 1999*.

and 24 percent at private four-year institutions. The average tuition for 1999-2000 is shown in the accompanying table.

## Average U.S. College Tuition by Type of Institution, 1999-2000

Public four-year (for in-state students)	\$3,356
Public two-year (for in-state students)	1,627
Private four-year	15,380

## Children at Risk

In 1999, 8 percent of U.S. 8th graders, 16 percent of 10th graders, and 23 percent of 12th graders reported smoking cigarettes daily in the past 30 days. Females and males reported similar

sociated with motor-vehicle accidents, injuries, and deaths, with problems in school and in the workplace; and with fighting, crime, and other serious consequences. In 1999, heavy drinking by youth remained unchanged from the previous year, with 31 percent of U.S. 12th graders, 26 percent of 10th graders, and 15 percent of 8th graders reporting heavy drinking (i.e., having at least five drinks in a row in the previous two weeks). Among 10th to 12th graders, males are more likely to drink heavily than females, and heavy drinking is much more common among Hispanic and white students than among their black counterparts. Among 12th graders, 12 percent of blacks reported heavy drinking compared with 36 percent of whites and 29 percent of Hispanics.

The percentage of American 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reporting illicit drug use (marijuana, cocaine [including crack cocaine], heroin, hallucinogens [including LSD and PCP], amphetamines and non-medical uses of psychotherapeutic drugs) in the past 30 days increased substantially between 1992 and 1996, with rates becoming stable or decreasing since that time. In 1999, 26 percent of 12th graders reported using illicit drugs in the previous 30 days; as did 22 percent of 10th graders and 12 percent of 8th graders. Among 12th graders, males were more likely to use illicit drugs than females.—Reported in *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2000*, produced by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

## Sources of Current-Fund Revenue for U.S. Institutions of Higher Education by Sector, 1995-1996

Source	Public	Private
Tuition and fees	18.8	43.0
Federal government	11.1	13.8
State governments	35.8	1.9
Local governments	4.1	0.7
Private gifts, grants, and contracts	4.1	9.1
Endowment income	0.2	5.2
Sales and services	22.2	21.0
Educational activities	2.9	2.7
Auxiliary enterprises	9.4	9.8
Hospitals	9.9	8.5
Other sources	3.3	5.3

## Steep Tuition Increases at U.S. Colleges

Since the 1995-1996 academic year, college tuition has increased substantially in the U.S. Between 1995-1996 and 1999-2000, it increased 17 percent at public two-year and four-year colleges,

rates of smoking, contrasted with different ethnic groups, which showed substantial differences. White students had the highest rates, followed by Hispanics and blacks. In 1999, 27 percent of white 12th graders reported daily smoking, compared with 14 percent of Hispanics and 8 percent of blacks.

Alcohol is the most commonly used psychoactive substance during adolescence. Its use is as-

## More U.S. Students Taking Advanced Placement Tests

Between 1984 and 1997, the number of U.S. students who took Advanced Placement (AP) examinations increased dramatically, rising from 50 to 131 students per 1,000 12th graders. The numbers increased for both sexes and all racial/ethnic groups.

By taking Advanced Placement exams, students can acquire college credit for their knowledge of college-level subjects. The AP program is associated with a demanding academic curriculum.

Between 1984 and 1997, the number of females who took the AP exam increased at a faster rate than did the number of males. In 1997, whites were more likely than blacks or Hispanics to take AP examinations in all subject areas, with the exception of foreign languages. Hispanics were at least three times as likely to take a foreign language AP exam as whites.—From *Education Statistics Quarterly 1:4* (Winter 1999), a publication of the U.S. Department of Education. ☞