

8700-327D

Task Force Number Eleven

EXPANDED PROGRAMS OF  
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Note: Task Force eleven has developed additional materials but consensus could not be obtained and therefore the additional material is not included because it would not represent the recommendations of the task force.

3-1411

TASK FORCE NO. 11: CUMULATIVE REPORT

Introduction

Statement of Goal, Discussion of Goal Statement, and  
Adaptation of Goal Statement

11.0 Statement of Goal

To expand educational planning, research, and evaluation in the Iowa Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Discussion of Goal Statement:

The Code of Iowa, Chapter 257.10 emphasizes the importance of long-range programs for the state system of public education. Also stated is that programs should be based upon special studies, surveys, and research conducted under the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The State Department of Public Instruction should encourage research and development in institutions, organizations, and agencies such as universities, colleges, local school systems, regional service centers, and school study councils. A substantial research program in the Department of Public Instruction should be maintained. Major effort in this program should be in the direction of stimulating, encouraging, and coordinating the research activities of all of the aforementioned groups. In addition, the Department of Public Instruction should assist local school systems as they implement the results or findings of research and as they attempt to identify potential research problems and undertake research and development projects.

As a prelude to discussing the stated goal of planning, research, and evaluation in an effort to develop objectives and activities to meet it, the following definitions are advanced:

1. *Planning* is the overall process that encompasses the stating of goals and their solution through assessing needs, defining objectives, listing constraints, examining alternatives, formulating programs, and research and evaluation strategies.
2. *Research* is the organized and systematic investigation or experimentation directed to the discovery and interpretation of facts; the collection, processing, and analysis of data.
3. *Evaluation* is the judgment, both subjective and objective, as to the extent to which program objectives have been and are being achieved; measures of efficiency and effectiveness, established during the planning process, are used to compare outcomes with pre-determined standards.

This discussion of the terms planning, research, and evaluation indicates that these processes are overlapping and very closely interrelated. The

planning process identifies strategies for research and evaluation; and, yet, research is necessary to do planning, and each activity is evaluated in itself. One should be aware of these interrelationships, but should not be detracted by the fact that clear and concise distinctions cannot be made between the processes.

It also is necessary to realize that these processes are applicable at various levels within educational agencies, organizations, and institutions. The need to set some parameters to focus attention to levels of highest priorities is apparent. There are many dimensions that can be considered. The planning, research, and evaluating efforts can employ these processes to the broad general task, special projects, or to specific branches within the Department of Public Instruction.

Adaptation of Goal Statement:

To better analyze the programs to expand educational planning, research, and evaluation, it is logical that the goal be sub-divided into sub-goals that fit into a broad time frame. The sub-goals can be considered as points of major emphasis which will be defined by specific objectives and activities to be accomplished. Thus, after attaining the objectives, the goal will be approached. These points of major emphasis or sub-goals may be tentatively illustrated as follows:

- A. Development and Organization of Planning, Research, and Evaluation Unit within DPI. (First fiscal year)
- B. Development and Implementation of Tasks for Internal Function of the DPI. (Second fiscal year)
- C. Coordination of Planning, Research, and Evaluation with the Local School Districts of Iowa. (Third fiscal year)
- D. Coordination of Planning, Research, and Evaluation with the Institutions of Higher Education. (Fourth fiscal year)
- E. Emphasis on Collection and Dissemination of Research. Coordination Between State Agencies and Nationwide Studies. (Fifth fiscal year)

Descriptive statements should be written for each of these sub-goals. Even though these sub-goals are somewhat interrelated, each represents major emphasis for a fiscal year's work. Each succeeding year more effort will be required to continue implementing the preceding years' sub-goals and to initiate the development of new objectives. Therefore, more resources - time, personnel, and money - must be allocated each fiscal year.

Part One

Statement of Goal, Objective for Fiscal Year 1971,  
and Activities Relating Thereto

11.0A Statement of Sub-Goal and Objectives for Fiscal Year 1971

To develop and organize a Planning, Research, and Evaluation Unit within the DPI.

11.1A Statement of Objective

By June 30, 1971, the Iowa Department of Public Instruction will have developed, approved, and begun implementation of a comprehensive plan to expand planning, research, and evaluation. The product of this objective will be the documentation of the approved plan and formation of a staff known as the Planning, Research, and Evaluation Unit (PRE Unit).

11.1A.1 Description of Activity

Through the use of selected DPI staff members and the analysis of priorities within the Department, during the period May 1 to July 1, 1970, the basic positions of the PRE Unit will be defined, and job requirements and descriptions will be written. The product of this work will be filed with the DPI personnel officer.

Cost - Staff: Selected persons	= \$4,000
Travel	= \$ 500
Other	= \$ 500
Total	<u>\$5,000</u>

11.1A.2 Description of Activity

The needed staff personnel will be appointed between July 1 and September 1, 1970.

Cost - Travel = \$1,200

11.1A.3 Description of Activity

Between September 1, 1970 and June 30, 1971, the planning unit will initiate the development of the comprehensive plan. This will be done by involving DPI personnel, advisory persons within Iowa, and consultants to identify needs, strategies, alternatives, evaluation procedures, and requirements for organization of the PRE Unit.

Cost - Staff: PRE persons, 2 (full-time)	= \$25,000
Travel	= \$ 2,000
Consultants	= \$ 2,000
Total	<u>\$29,000</u>

11.1A.4 Description of Activity

Tentative plans will be presented to the DPI Administration for review on an on-going basis.

Cost - Administrative staff time = \$210

11.1A.5 Description of Activity

In-service training for PRE staff on planning, research, and evaluation procedures will be initiated during six one-half days prior to June 30, 1971.

Cost - Staff: PRE persons = \$1,000  
          Consultants       = \$1,000  
                                      \$2,000

11.1A.6 Description of Activity

Between December 1, 1970 and May 31, 1971, action for the implementation of an information system to the DPI will be initiated. This will include a comprehensive plan for the identification, collection, processing, storing, and retrieval of data utilizing electronic data processing equipment when applicable.

Cost - Staff: PRE persons = \$10,000  
          Contract               = \$20,000  
          Travel                 = \$ 1,000  
                                  Total                \$31,000

Note: This effort involves a mix of staff and outside contractual assistance. The more staff available the less contractual help needed. However, outside consultants (management and technical) would be advisable. Technical assistance will be needed to modify the existing model to meet specified requirements in Iowa. As the plan develops, the subsystems and each component must be accepted, rejected, or modified. Then, the written plan and documentation of the system must reflect these decisions.

11.1A.7 Description of Activity

During June, 1971, the PRE staff will submit for approval the comprehensive plan, revised as needed, get it printed, and begin its implementation for Fiscal Year 1972.

Cost - Staff: PRE persons, 1 (f.t.e.) = \$1,350  
                  Clerical               = \$ 300  
          Printing                       = \$ 500  
                  Total                   \$2,150

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