

VERMONT BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE REPORT ON ASSESSMENT

The Vermont Business Roundtable Education Study Committee Sub-Group on Assessment has completed its work on assessment and made the following recommendation which was endorsed by the Roundtable Board of Directors on March 12, 1990.

THE ROUNDTABLE STRONGLY RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR A NEW ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AND RECOMMENDS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PLAN BE ADOPTED CONSISTENT WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS AND COMMENTS.

I. Implementation Sequence

We support a start-up plan of two subjects, Writing and Math, in two grades. We believe they are the two subjects that will best establish a base that can be carried over into other subjects.

There is a slight preference to begin with grades four and eight, as opposed to grades four and eleven, in the first year. The intent here is to begin to impact the process at the earliest possible point - hence grade eight versus eleven.

We clearly support the addition of a third grade level for assessment in Writing and Math before the addition of additional subjects. The group felt strongly about having three data points. Again, we feel Writing and Math addressed thoroughly will have a positive impact on other subjects even though they aren't yet assessed.

We believe the portfolios should include work from other subjects - not solely from the Writing/English class or the Math class - but also pieces from History and Science, for example.

2. Comparison on a National Basis

We support the need for "standardization" with other states such that the results can help us understand how we are doing on a national and international basis. The assessment should be designed with that goal.

3. Training Plan

We believe the training plan is an essential component of the proposal which provides an important professional development experience for the participating teachers.

4. Business Role in the Development of Standards

We recommend the participation of business people in the development of the assessment standards and that their input be solicited early in the process.

5. Budget

We believe the complete budget package as presented was well documented and justified for 1991 and 1992 (indicating the amounts required as \$425K and \$666K respectively), and we believe that the assessment plan should be funded.

We believe that these amounts are reasonable and expect the State to hold a detailed budget review on a line item basis.

As an Assessment Sub-Committee, an Education Committee, or the Roundtable as a whole, we are not offering opinions on the specific source of funding or how this fits within an overall State budget package.

6. On-Going Use of the Assessment

As a business community, we would recommend incorporating the assessment results (portfolios and transcripts) in the hiring process as appropriate on a company by company basis.