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# AERA SIG on School Indicators and Profiles

## NEWSLETTER

December 1998

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The AERA SIG on School Indicators and Profiles now has a web site! We have discussed the possibility since the SIG began in 1994, and are happy to report we are on-line for the Holidays! For those of you who would like to find us on-line, the address is [www.wcer.wisc.edu/sipsig](http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/sipsig).

The web site is a work in progress. Please send Rolf Blank ([rolfb@ccsso.org](mailto:rolfb@ccsso.org)) your suggestions and ideas for additions or improvements. For example: Do you like the direct e-mail access in the Members section? Would you like the "Annual Meeting" section to provide more information? A "Resources" section is still under development--What resources would you like to see included in this section? What other sections do we need? What links would you like to access through our site? How about a SIG:SIP chat room?

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Two requests: (a) if your organization maintains a web site please consider a direct link to the SIG:SIP address; (b) if you are so inclined, we could use help with organizing and editing material for the site. We would like to update the site soon and add new features. Please contact Rolf if you can help!

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Thank you to the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for providing space on their web site for us. Thanks also to Marty Bush, CCSSO, who has provided excellent assistance with web page design, organizing the initial entries, and writing and editing material.

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## SIP Program at AERA 1999

Susan Kochan, our SIG:SIP Program Chair, has announced the following sessions of the SIG at the AERA Annual Meeting in Montreal, April 19-23. The dates of our specific sessions are yet to be announced.

### *Measure for Measure: Varying Perspectives on How We Measure and Translate School Performance*

SIG/School Indicators and Profiles

Chair: Lee Hoffman, National Center for Education Statistics

Discussant: Bobby Franklin, Louisiana Department of Education

#### **Papers/Presentations:**

- *Indicators of School Performance: The Barometer of Educational Transformation in South Africa.* Charles Sheppard, Human Sciences Research Council, William J. Smith, McGill University Office of Research on Public Policy
- *Validation of Competing Statistical Formulas of School Effectiveness.* Eugene Kennedy, Louisiana State University, Maryann Durland, Arthur

Andersen Center for Professional Education

- *Schools Speaking to Stakeholders: Putting the School Performance Puzzle Together.* John MacBeath, University of Strathclyde Quality Education Center; William J. Smith and Carolyn Sturges Sparkes, McGill University Office of Research on Educational Policy
- *Use of Educational Indicators in State Reports: Cross-State Analysis, Methods of Reporting, and Use of Technology.* Jennifer Manise, Rolf Blank, Council of Chief State School Officers

All members are asked to attend the annual session for SIG:SIP members, and interested AERA meeting attendees are invited. As last year, it will be an early evening session (around 6:00 p.m.).

We will feature this year a panel discussion on "Education Indicators and Accountability Systems: Critical Issues in Development and Reporting." A number of state leaders will be discussing their accountability and indicator systems.

The meeting will also feature refreshments, networking, and a good opportunity to catch up with people in your field--all with a special Quebec flavor!

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## News of Reports and Resources

In the past several months, a number of resources have become available that are likely to be of interest to professionals working with school indicators and profiles. Some of these you may know about, some you may have written or produced. We will update this section on the web site. Please send your favorite indicators resources. (This list has a Washington, DC slant--please help correct that!)

## WEB Connections

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) web site ([www.ed.gov/stats.html](http://www.ed.gov/stats.html)) provides a wealth of data, reports, and useful references. NAEP Report Cards, Release Items, Trends, and Cross-State Compendiums are particularly useful. Also, the site provides a useful list of publications pertaining to TIMSS, and the reports can be accessed according to the type of question or data need you have. The NCES *Condition of Education* series of annual reports

has increased in value as the collection of indicators has stabilized and as valuable data disaggregation and trends are reported.

(What other web sites should we link to?)

## Meetings

• 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Management Information System Conference, sponsored by NCES and Mississippi Dept. of Education, March 1-3, 1999. Excellent workshops, networking. Submit presentations by 12/15/98. Register with Grace Lo 301.294.2803.

• The AERA Annual meeting in Montreal Canada is scheduled for April 19-23, 1999. This year's theme is "On the Threshold of the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities." The annual meeting in Montreal is AERA's last before the next millennium. To mark the transition into the new century, the meeting program will bring to center stage reflections on critical challenges and opportunities that AERA and education globally face in the coming years. For registration information visit <http://aera.net/meeting/regist99.html>.

## Published Reports

### • State-by-State Profiles

The Education Trust has released the second in its *Education Watch* series-State and National Data Book, Vol. II, 1998.

*The Kids Count Data Book* for 1998-State Profiles of Child Well-Being- was released this summer. It is published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation ([www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)).

CCSSO, with support from the U.S. Department of Education, will be releasing *State Education Indicators with a Focus on Title I, 1998* at the end of December ([www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org)). State assessment results are reported using proficiency levels. Each state profile provides a direct Internet link to state indicator reports.

### • Indicator Reports

The annual update of *State Education Accountability and Indicator Reports, 1998* is available on the CCSSO web site ([www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org)). For 1998, web addresses

are provided for each report. A companion analysis of the indicators used in the state reports will be available by the end of the year.

The Council of Great City Schools will release their indicators report shortly.

## ø Policy and Trends Analyses

The ETS Policy Information Center ([www.ets.org/research](http://www.ets.org/research)) has a series of reports on education policy topics informed by data analyses- such as graduation requirements, educational technology, advances in student assessment, class size, school violence and discipline. Many of the reports draw on data from NAEP.

The National Education Goals Panel ([www.negp.gov](http://www.negp.gov)) has just released its annual report for 1998 charting progress of each state toward the six national goals, and the Panel released a report by state on results of the NAEP-TIMSS linking study.

## ø State and District Accountability Systems

States and districts are developing systems of accountability to meet the requirements for accountability of Title I, under the IASA of 1994. The U.S. Department of Education is responsible for the National Assessment of Title I, and a report to the Congress will be submitted in January 1999. The report will track the progress of states and districts in developing assessments and accountability systems tied to standards. Many states are still developing and refining their performance standards and proficiency levels based on the standards, as well as working to link Title I accountability for districts and schools to their overall state accountability plan.

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## Report from Secretary-Treasurer

Gretchen Ridgeway, SIP secretary-treasurer, and Director of Research and Evaluation at DODEA, reports that the balance in the SIG:SIP account as of 9/30/98 was \$799. We will be subtracting from that amount the mailing costs and a nominal cost for designing the web site.

The current list of paid SIG members is shown on the web site. If you find any corrections are needed to your address, or if you want to add your e-mail address, please send them to Gretchen ([gretchen\\_ridgeway@odedodea.edu](mailto:gretchen_ridgeway@odedodea.edu)).

We are mailing this newsletter to "former members," as well as all current members (former=\$5 annual membership not paid as of 9/30/98). We hope you will choose to renew your membership (a form is on the Web site).

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## Next Steps

We hope the SIG:SIP can become a resource for your professional work. Let us know how the web site can help you do research, interact, establish contacts, and provide information.

Please forward the SIP web site information onto your colleagues and friends who may want to join SIG:SIP.

Have a great holiday season!

-- Rolf K. Blank, Chair, SIG:SIP

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