

MEMORANDUM TO SENATOR DOLE

DA: May 14, 1995
FR: Alec Vachon *AV*
RE: UPDATE/NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE STUDY OF
SCHOOL REFORM AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As you may recall, last year you had included in GOALS 2000 legislation a provision for a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the impact of schools reform and students with disabilities (PRESS RELEASE ATTACHED).

At the heart of GOALS 2000 is more testing and standards-- which sometimes present unique problems for students with disabilities (particularly learning disabilities--who are about 50% of special ed students). (It turns out this concern was farsighted--a recent study in New York found that some students who scored poorly on achievement tests were being labeled "special ed" so that their test scores would not bring down their school's performance. The schools looked better--at the expense of these students.)

Since the Fall, I have worked with (i.e., prodded) the Education Department to implement the study ... and on Friday the panel that will conduct the study met for the first time -- a distinguished panel of 18 educators and others--including Ann Turnbull from the University of Kansas (list attached). I visited with the panel on Friday briefly.

The panel is supposed to issue a preliminary report in 12 months, and a final report within 24 months.

- Dan
- Dan l
- Andrew

**Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
Division on Education, Labor, and Human Performance
Board on Testing and Assessment
GOALS 2000 AND THE INCLUSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

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Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 3, 1994

CONTACT: CLARKSON HINE
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**SENATE ADOPTS DOLE AMENDMENT TO GOALS 2000 BILL
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULDN'T MISS THE BUS
IN SCHOOL REFORM**

Washington -- Senator Bob Dole issued the following statement today on his amendment to require a study of GOALS 2000 and students with disabilities:

I am pleased that my amendment which directs the Secretary of Education to conduct a study of how well students with disabilities are served by the GOALS 2000 school reforms has been included among the managers amendments. The National Academy of Sciences was selected as the contractor because of its reputation for both independence and excellence.

There are three reasons why this study is important and, in my view, way overdue.

First, I am concerned that students with disabilities will miss the bus when it comes to school reform. Whether one agrees with GOALS 2000 or not, the national debate over education sparked by the 1983 report A Nation At Risk has been important and sometimes riveting.

Regrettably, in the past 11 years there has been little attention to students with disabilities -- although they comprise 10 percent of all students and are among those most in need of education reforms. For example, GOALS 2000 aims for a 90-percent high school graduation rate. Even without reform, the graduation rate among nondisabled students has been growing, to 83 percent