9:41





education. It assists the president in executing his education policies for the

nation and in implementing laws enacted

The U.S. Department of Education is the

agency of the federal government that

establishes policy for, administers and

coordinates most federal assistance to

by Congress.

Mission of the Departme of Education The Department of Education helps students of all ages accomplish greatness by providing support, opportunities and equal access to learning. We inspire students to accomplish their goals so they can achieve educational excellence and global competitiveness.

The Department of Education establishes policies relating to federal financial aid for education, administers distribution of those funds, and

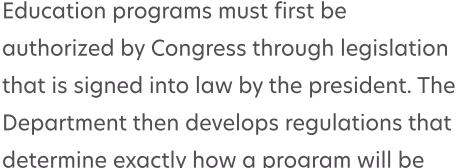
Like most federal activities, Department of

monitors their use.

RECOMMENDS

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REFORM



Department then develops regulations that determine exactly how a program will be operated. These regulations are published in the Federal Register for public comment

EVERY INDIVIDUAL

LEARN MORE HERE

funds for education are distributed using three methods: a set formula, competition and financial need determination. By formula: Some programs follow a formula prescribed in the bill approved by

the private sector); colleges and universities; individual researchers; and community-based organizations such as nonprofit agencies. By financial need determination: The third basis on which federal money is awarded is financial need. For example, postsecondary students applying for grants, loans and fellowships must prove family financial need according to established guidelines. The Department of Education collects data and oversees research on America's schools, and disseminates this information

The Department makes recommendations for education reform. The secretary advises the president in this regard and leads the Department in implementing the president's education policies in many arenas-from the preparation of legislative proposals for Congress to decisions about education research priorities. Of vital importance in formulating and implementing policies is the Department's close work with a variety of advisory groups and organizations

In addition, the secretary brings national

speeches, writing articles for publication,

addressing the media and making personal

attention to education issues by giving

composed of citizens from all walks of life who have an interest and expertise in education and who provide significant ideas on key policies and programs.

The Department of Education enforces federal statutes prohibiting discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal funds, and ensures equal access to education for every

race, color, national origin, sex, disability or

age. These laws extend to all state

education agencies, elementary and

secondary school systems, colleges and

schools, state vocational rehabilitation

entities that receive U.S. Department of

whose rights are protected include

homeless children with disabilities,

universities, vocational schools, proprietary

agencies, libraries and museums, and other

Education funds. Specific examples of those

individuals with limited English proficiency,

women and girls in athletic programs, and

people in need of vocational rehabilitation.

Responsibilities outside of

In creating the Department of Education,

administered by the Secretary or by

any other officer of the Department

shall be construed to authorize the

the Department of

No provision of a program

Congress specified that:

Education

Secretary or any such officer to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution, school, or school system, over any accrediting agency or association, or over the selection or content of library resources, textbooks, or other instructional materials by any educational institution or school system, except to the extent authorized by law. (SECTION 103[B], PUBLIC LAW 96-88) The Department does not: · establish schools and colleges develop curricula

set requirements for enrollment and

determine state education standards

develop or implement testing to measure

whether states are meeting their education

These responsibilities are handled by the

various states and districts, as well as by

*SINCE 1969, THE DEPARTMENT'S NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS HAS CONDUCTED THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP). IT IS

HOW WELL ITS STUDENTS MEET THE STATE'S ACADEMIC

BETWEEN CHILDREN'S PROFICIENCY ON A STATE'S TEST AND THEIR PERFORMANCE ON NAEP MAY SUGGEST THE STATE NEEDS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ITS STANDARDS.

STANDARDS; HOWEVER, A LARGE DISCREPANCY

public and private organizations of all

kinds, **not by the U.S. Department of**

graduation

standards*

Education.

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The U.S. Department of **Education fulfills its purposes** as declared by Congress by engaging in four main pillars of focus. **ESTABLISH AND** COLLECT SCHOOL **ADMINISTER DATA AND** FINANCIAL AID FOR RESEARCH TO FIND **EDUCATION BEST PRACTICES** LEARN MORE HERE LEARN MORE HERE **IDENTIFY MAJOR ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL ISSUES AND EDUCATION FOR**

and reviewed by Congress. Congress must also vote to appropriate the money that each program will receive annually. The Department distributes financial aid to eligible applicants throughout the nation for early childhood, elementary, secondary and postsecondary education programs. Federal programs benefit all students, and special programs exist to serve individuals with disabilities, those who live in poverty, American Indians, immigrants and those

with limited English proficiency. Federal

Congress authorizing a program. Such a program might be set up so that qualified agencies receive an amount of money that is determined by the number of students meeting certain criteria in that state or school district. For example, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Department allocates money to the states to help them provide a free, appropriate public education for children with disabilities based on the number of children reported by each state as having special developmental or educational needs. By competition: Federal money also is awarded on the merit of competitive

applications. Applicants are ranked in order

applications are awarded funds. Those

eligible for such funding include state and

education partnerships (programs jointly

sponsored by education institutions and

local education agencies or school districts;

of merit and the most qualified

to Congress, educators, and the public. The Department oversees research on most aspects of education; collects data on trends; and gathers information to help identify best practices in education, including teaching techniques that work. Employees of the Department, as well as contractors and grant recipients, carry out the research. Research findings and statistics are disseminated to educators, policymakers, parents, researchers and the general public in the form of reports and publications both printed and online. Recent

publications have covered the latest

national assessments of educational

progress in a variety of subject areas,

innovations in education, the condition of

education in America, annual reports on a

variety of federal education programs, how

many other pertinent education topics. In a

to improve mathematics education and

typical year, the Department publishes

hundreds of publications and millions of

copies to meet the public's demand for

The Department of Education

identifies the major issues and

focuses national attention on

problems in education and

information.

them.

appearances in schools and other education settings. The Department further highlights education issues by sponsoring and participating in national conferences and other similar activities, such as the Blue Ribbon Schools and Presidential Scholars award programs, the Teaching Ambassador Fellows Program, the Student Art Exhibit Program, and special events and ceremonies to honor teachers or students. individual. The Department enforces five civil rights statutes to ensure equal educational opportunity for all students, regardless of

THE ONLY NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE AND CONTINUING ASSESSMENT OF WHAT AMERICAN STUDENTS KNOW AND CAN DO IN MAJOR ACADEMIC SUBJECTS AND PROVIDES A WEALTH OF DATA ABOUT THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION IN THE U.S. NAEP IS NOT THE SAME AS TESTING DONE BY EACH STATE TO MEASURE

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