

# Basics of Education Focus of ECS Report

What makes a good school good? How do students learn? How do good teachers teach? How can poor schools change and improve?

These questions and their answers are the focus of **Education Advisory: 1985**, released this winter by the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

Designed as a resource handbook for newly elected and established education leaders, **Education Advisory: 1985** provides a short, readable synthesis of the basics of education—how students learn, how good teachers teach, how good schools become and remain good and how poorer schools can change and improve.

"Education as we know it is rapidly changing," said ECS President Frank Newman. "Policy makers must be ready to address short- and long-term population and enrollment changes. This book provides many of the tools for making tough choices, as well as the context, both past and present, for these changes."

Beginning with a discussion of the context for making decisions about education, the 56-page book presents a comprehensive overview of factors that constitute optimum learning conditions, the characteristics of good teachers

and good schools, the content of recent reform reports, how and why schools change and the renewal process outside the school building.

The handbook concludes with a detailed resource list and state-by-state statistics on subjects including per capita income, per pupil expense, total K-12 enrollment and average teacher salaries.

For more information on **Education Advisory: 1985**, contact Sonia Weiss, ECS public information officer, at 303-830-3653. Copies at \$10 each may be ordered through the ECS Distribution Center at 1860 Lincoln Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colo. 80295, 303-830-3692.

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The Education Commission of the States is a non-profit, nationwide compact formed in 1965 to help governors, state legislators, state education officials and others develop policies to improve the quality of education. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are members. Offices are in Denver, Colo., and Washington, D.C.