

Education Organization Is Accredited by ANSI

This month the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE) became the first major organization in the education field to be accredited by the Executive Standards Council of the American National Standards Institute.

Introduced to ANSI by the U.S. Department of Education, JCSEE will submit standards to ANSI for approval using the Accredited Organizational Method whereby evidence of consensus is achieved by vote of a standards committee or board within the organization composed of directly and materially affected parties.

JCSEE develops and maintains standards for evaluating programs, projects, materials, personnel, and other critical aspects of the education field.

Though its standards are already widely used by education professionals, the organization seeks the added recognition and acceptance for its standards that only the ANSI approval system offers.

The designation American National Standard assures users that a standard has been developed under a set of due process procedures and that all directly and materially affected interests have had the opportunity to participate in its development. It assures users that those affected have indeed reached consensus on the standard's provisions.

The Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation was initiated in 1975. It is chaired by James R. Sanders of the Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University and is comprised of members from several major professional associations including the American Association of School Administrators, National Education Association, and the American Federation of Teachers. JCSEE recently published *The Personnel Education Standards*, a publication which presents educational institutions with criteria and guidelines for assessing and improving their systems for evaluating the qualifications and performance of educators.

Another standard presently under revision, *Standards for Evaluations of Educational Programs, Projects, and Materials* provides a structure that local educational agencies can use to judge the results of evaluations of programs and other vital aspects of the field. The standard is intended for use by teachers, administrators, school board members, counselors, legislators and other members of the education community. Both standards are expected to be submitted to ANSI for approval as American National Standards.

For more information on the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation, contact Joseph Tretler at ANSI headquarters, 212-642-4977.

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