

## **Joint Committee on Guidelines and Standards for Educational Evaluation**

The Joint Committee on Guidelines and Standards for Educational Evaluation has received a grant from the Lilly Endowment Fund to begin the work of an inter-society project to develop guidelines and standards for educational evaluation.

The genesis for this effort was the recent revision of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Tests*, completed in 1974 by a joint committee composed of representatives from the American Psychological Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education. One of the recommendations of the joint committee was that a companion volume be developed dealing with issues and standards for curriculum and program evaluation. The case for developing such a volume was clearly set down in a memorandum by George Madaus, an NCME representative on the Joint Committee.

Spurred by the Joint Committee's recommendation, the arguments presented in the Madaus memorandum, and recent survey data from NCME membership revealing program evaluation as the highest priority area for attention by the organization, NCME took immediate action to support the establishment of the Joint Committee project.

The Joint Committee includes representatives from the following organizations: American Association for Higher Education, American Association for School Administrators, American Educational Research Association, American Federation of Teachers, American Psychological Association, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Council on Measurement in Education, National Education Association, and National School Boards Association. NCME representatives on the Joint Committee are Ronald Carver, George Madaus, and Daniel Stufflebeam. The elected chairman of the Joint Committee is Daniel Stufflebeam, Director of the Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University.

All involved recognize the difficulty and importance of the task to develop guidelines and standards for educational evaluation. Educators have gained considerable experience and insight regarding evaluation and it is significant that a joint committee representing diverse groups have decided to collaborate in developing a first statement of guidelines and standards. Within this statement it is the Committee's intent to encourage the use of promising new practices, to project standards that they think are desirable and possible to attain, and to point out what they think is detrimental practice. Additionally, the Joint Committee intends to promote needed research in the area of evaluation and to establish a mechanism for systematic and periodic efforts to update and improve statements of guidelines and standards.

It is projected that the total effort will require four years of work. Development of the guidelines and standards will reflect a wide range of perspectives. In addition to the Joint Committee, professionals from several areas relevant to both the technical and interactive aspects of evaluation work will be involved. Throughout the project, NCME membership will be informed about the substance of the guidelines and standards-development work.

The Lilly Endowment grant for the first year of the project is \$90,690. Forty-five thousand, three hundred and forty-five dollars were provided in May 1976. The balance of the grant is contingent on the successful solicitation of funding from other agencies to support the work of the Committee. Communications are underway with other funding agencies. Representatives of several of these agencies have indicated a definite interest in providing partial support, but no firm decisions have been made at this time.

Grants for the project are administered through the American Educational Research Association. The project is being implemented at the Evaluation Center at Western Michigan University.

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