National Mathematics Advisory Panel: Strengthening Math Education Through Research

May 15, 2006

“You’ve got to know math if you’re going to compete in this 21st-century world.”

– President George W. Bush

“It is more important than ever that our students receive solid math instruction in the early grades to prepare them to take and pass algebra and other challenging courses in middle and high school.”

– U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings

On April 18, 2006, President Bush issued an Executive Order creating the National Mathematics Advisory Panel. The Panel will advise the President and the Secretary of Education on the best use of scientifically based research to advance the teaching and learning of mathematics.

- Modeled after the influential National Reading Panel, the National Math Panel will examine and summarize the scientific evidence related to the teaching and learning of mathematics, with a specific focus on preparation for and success in learning algebra.

- The National Math Panel will issue two reports containing policy recommendations on how to improve mathematics achievement for all students.

Today, Secretary Margaret Spellings announced the 17 expert panelists and six ex-officio members who will comprise the National Math Panel.

- The National Math Panel will be chaired by Dr. Larry Faulkner, president of the Houston Endowment and President Emeritus of the University of Texas at Austin. Other panelists:
  - Dr. Camilla Persson Benbow, National Math Panel Vice Chair, Dean of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University, Peabody College
  - Dr. Deborah Loewenberg Ball, Dean, School of Education and Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan
  - Dr. A. Wade Boykin, Professor and Director of the Developmental Psychology Graduate Program in the Department of Psychology, Howard University
  - Dr. Francis “Skip” Fennell, Professor of Education, McDaniel College (Md.); President, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
  - Dr. David Geary, Curators' Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Missouri at Columbia
  - Dr. Russell Gersten, Executive Director, Instructional Research Group; Professor Emeritus, College for Education, University of Oregon
  - Nancy Ichinaga, former Principal, Bennett-Kew Elementary School, Inglewood, Calif.
  - Dr. Tom Loveless, Director, Brown Center on Education Policy and Senior Fellow in Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution
  - Dr. Liping Ma, Senior Scholar for the Advancement of Teaching, Carnegie Foundation
  - Dr. Valerie Reyna, Professor of Human Development and Professor of Psychology, Cornell University
  - Dr. Wilfried Schmid, Professor of Mathematics, Harvard University
  - Dr. Robert Siegler, Teresa Heinz Professor of Cognitive Psychology, Department of Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University

For more information visit www.ed.gov or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.
The National Math Panel is part of President Bush’s agenda to strengthen math education in order to give our students the skills to succeed in the 21st century. Included in his FY 2007 budget request is $260 million to allow the Panel to continue its work and to help states implement its recommendations. Key to this effort are two new programs:

- **Math Now for Elementary School Students**—Modeled after the innovative Reading First program, it would utilize the National Math Panel’s recommendations to promote scientifically based practices in math instruction so students are prepared for success in algebra and more advanced math in middle and high school.
- **Math Now for Middle School Students**—Similar to the Striving Readers Initiative, it would diagnose older students’ deficiencies and provide intensive, systematic instruction to enable them to take and pass algebra.

For more information please visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.