



News Release

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Ministry of Education

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Ten -Year Education Plan unveiled at National Education Summit



Delegates at the National Education Summit discussed the goals Ten-Year Education Plan.

Delegates at the National Education Summit held 6th -7th July, at the Wyndham Nassau Resort were given the opportunity to examine the 22 –goal plan that is set to radically reform the delivery of education in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. The initial response was that the educational stakeholders felt that such a plan was needed but they required more time to examine and give constructive feedback on the document.

According to The Minister of Education, The Honourable Carl W. Bethel stated that the Ten Year Education Plan provides a blue print for the transformation of the nation's education system and contains the goals and objectives that reflect the Ministry of Education's course of action over the short and long term.

Suggestions for change were garnered from twenty-two focus groups representing individuals in business, politics, religion and other sectors of Bahamian society. The plan was commissioned by the Minister in April 2008, and involved a small committee of technical officers in the Ministry to develop the 10-Year Education Plan.

The process included a detail review of existing strategic plans of The College of The Bahamas, Ministry of Health, University of the West Indies and The U.S. Department of Education. The Committee also reviewed documents which sought to address national issues and concerns with a view to improving education in The Bahamas. Among the documents examined were: The Ministry of Education Draft Strategic Plan 2004; 18th National Education Conference Report; Manifesto 2002, Manifesto 2007, Our Plan, Action Agenda, The Contract 2002 and The Coalition for Education Reform.

The chief priority areas the Committee examined were:

- Curriculum and Instruction – what is taught and how it is taught.
- Human, Material and Financial Resources – the staffing, supplies and funding essential to the successful operation of the education system
- Administration and Management – overall performance of the education system and its ability to assist students in achieving their dreams.
- Partnerships – the relationships the Ministry of Education has with its many stakeholders and how it will work with various partners to achieve educational success.

During the breakout sessions at the Summit delegates were required to discuss the plan and provide some initial feedback for improving the document. Ms. Marcia Musgrove, Interim Chairperson for the Post Secondary/Tertiary Education Advisory Committee and the current National Teacher of The Year reported that members of her team expressed a strong desire to see the recommendations executed in a timely manner.

Since the launch of the document at the Summit many stakeholder groups and individuals have publicly expressed their views on the draft plan particularly Goal #14, Objective #7 which seeks to introduce a national lottery, using the proceeds to assist in the funding of education.

The Ministry has posted the draft plan on its website www.bahamaseducation for members of the public to download and peruse. Persons who wish to comment on the plan can send email their views to: tenyear@bahamaseducation.com