

**TURNING POINTS:
PREPARING AMERICAN YOUTH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

The Report of the Task Force on Education of Young Adolescents
Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development, June, 1989
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PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS: "Task Force call for middle grade schools that:

- ◇ *Create small communities for learning* where stable, close, mutually respectful relationships with adults and peers are considered fundamental for intellectual development and personal growth. . . .
- ◇ *Teach a core academic program* that results in students who are literate, including in the sciences, and who know how to think critically, lead a healthy life, behave ethically, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship in a pluralistic society.
- ◇ *Ensure success for all students* through elimination of tracking by achievement level and promotion of cooperative learning, . . .
- ◇ *Empower teachers and administrators to make decisions about the experiences of middle grade students* through creative control by teachers over the instructional program. . . .
- ◇ *Staff middle grade schools with teachers who are expert at teaching young adolescents* and who have been specially prepared for assignment to middle grades.
- ◇ *Improve academic performance through fostering the health and fitness of young adolescents, . . .*
- ◇ *Reengage families in the education of young adolescents* by giving families meaningful roles in school governance, . . . and offering families opportunities to support the learning process at home and at the school.
- ◇ *Connect schools with communities, which together share responsibility for each middle grade student's success, . . .* " [pp. 9-10]

"Middle grade schools, in conjunction with state and local authorities, can vastly improve middle grade curricula and instruction programs by:

- ◇ Teaching young adolescents to think critically;
- ◇ Teaching young adolescents to develop healthy lifestyles;
- ◇ Teaching young adolescents to be active citizens;
- ◇ Integrating subject matter across disciplines; and
- ◇ Teaching students to learn as well as to test successfully."