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COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN
PRIVATE EDUCATION

1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 1102, Washington, D.C. 20036

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Joyce G. McCray
Executive Director

January 22, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal
Assistant to the President and
Director of the Office of National Service
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

On behalf of the Council for American Private Education I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of National Service. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming years.

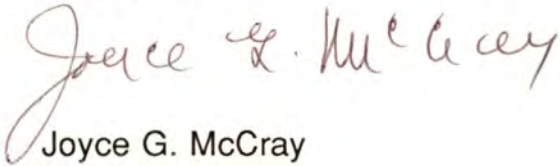
CAPE was founded in 1971 to provide a coherent private school voice in the educational community. Today, the members are 14 national educational organizations serving private elementary and secondary schools. There are 29 state affiliates which strengthen the coalition concept throughout the country. The CAPE member organizations represent about 70 percent of the 5,200,000 children enrolled and 384,000 teachers in private schools. One out of every four schools in America is a private school.

We are very interested in concepts of service and programs which provide children the opportunities to experience helping others. Many private schools, elementary and secondary, provide such opportunities for their students. Before coming to Washington, I was the principal of Friends Seminary, a Quaker independent day school in New York City. Community service is a requirement for graduation at that school.

We are eager to help you in any way. We ask that as you begin your new work you consider including private school educators in your meetings and your planning. We are eager to participate and share our experience.

We look forward to hearing from you again, we are eager to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Joyce G. McCray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joyce G. McCray
Executive Director

To receive more information, please complete this form and return to CAPE.

Legislative Conference

State CAPE Network

National Diffusion Network

Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Program

Drug-Free School Recognition Program

Outlook

Private Schools of the United States

"Facts about Private Schools as Background
for the Debate on Parental Choice"

Choice Statement

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

STREET ADDRESS

SUITE NUMBER

CITY

STATE

ZIP + 4

PHONE

FAX



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Suite 1102
Washington, D.C. 20036-4502

Drug-Free School Recognition Program which identifies schools which are doing exceptionally good work to counter alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse,

Private School Facilitator Project which encourages schools to take advantage of the National Diffusion Network enrichment curriculum units;

Publications

- **circulating** a monthly newsletter, *Outlook*, to Members of Congress, educators, libraries, and subscribers;
- **distributing** *Private Schools of the United States* (1992 edition), a directory of CAPE's 15,000 member schools which is published by Market Data Retrieval; and,
- **developing** special papers addressing current issues such as a pamphlet entitled "Facts about Private Schools as Background for the Debate on Parental Choice".

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Executive Director

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12-22-92-JM

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"Voice of the Nation's
Private Schools"

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Council for American Private Education

History and Mission

The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) is a Washington-based coalition of 14 national

organizations serving private elementary and secondary schools. Member organizations are non-profit and subscribe to a policy of non-discrimination in their admission policies. There are currently 29 state affiliates which strengthen the coalition throughout the country.

CAPE was founded in 1971 to provide a coherent private school voice in the educational community. The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics estimates that in Fall 1991, 11% (5,193,000) of the nation's children were enrolled in private schools and 13% (355,000) of the nation's elementary and secondary school educators were teaching in private schools. The CAPE member organizations represent about 70% of this total private school membership.

Private schools, by definition, help fulfill the American ideal of pluralism in education. America's first schools were private schools, established in the early 17th century, often church-related. It is also true that some of the very founders of these early private schools were instrumental in establishing the first free schools that later became the foundation for the public school system. Private schools have produced many of this country's great leaders and have often led the way in curricular innovation. Private school educators are vitally interested in being included in

the debate on the future of education in America and are ready to share the benefit of their expertise and experience.

The CAPE member organizations are themselves diverse: religious and non-religious, urban and rural, small and large. The CAPE board of directors deliberates extensively, listens to each other carefully, and strives to reach agreement on important public policy issues. They are primarily motivated by the concept of opportunity, choice and excellence in the education of all of America's children.

The significant numbers of students and teachers in private schools, the concept of pluralism, and the diversity of the private school organizations require a strong advocacy and where possible a common voice on behalf of all private schools. The purposes of CAPE, then, are to assist and strengthen the efforts of its member organizations and the private schools they represent and to serve effectively the free society from which they derive their independence.

Activities

CAPE advocates the role of private schools in education, develops positions on national public policy, and is dedicated to working cooperatively with the public sector to improve the quality of education for all of the nation's children. Among CAPE's specific activities to promote the interests of private schools are:

Legislative/Government

- ▮ **sponsoring** an annual legislative conference attended by representatives of all CAPE member organizations to communicate with Members of Congress;

- ▮ **providing** input and testimony on legislation of interest and concern to private schools on issues including: tax policy to protect and strengthen charitable support of non-profit institutions; school safety with regard to hazards such as radon, lead and asbestos; and education legislation so that private schools are appropriately included;
- ▮ **interacting** with the Administration and with the U.S. Department of Education to develop public policy, particularly with the Office of Educational Research and Improvement and the Office of Private Education;
- ▮ **working** as a member of the Committee for Education Funding to support the passage of appropriations for education and of Independent Sector, a coalition of non-profit organizations concerned with tax issues;

Communications

- ▮ **sharing** information with other education associations, as well as the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), to ensure a private school voice and presence;
- ▮ **strengthening** the relationship between the national CAPE office and the State CAPE network.;

Special Programs

- ▮ **administering** for private schools on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education the—
Blue Ribbon Schools Recognition Program which promotes excellence and calls national attention to unusually successful public and private schools,