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CIRCULAR LETTER: C-12

TO: Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: State-by-State Report Card on Higher Education

DATE: December 5, 2000

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education has issued its first state-by-state report card on higher education titled **Measuring Up 2000**.

While the report focuses primarily on the quality of higher education in each state, one factor considered and rated is "Preparation for College," or in other words the quality of the state's K-12 education system. In this category, Connecticut earned an A. The report states:

"Connecticut is one of the best-performing states in preparing its young people for college. A very high percentage of young adults earn a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) diploma by age 24. The state is a top performer in the percentage of 8th graders enrolled in algebra, and a very high percentage of 8th graders perform well on national assessments in math, reading and writing, making Connecticut a best-performing state on the reading and writing measures. A substantial proportion of high school students enroll in upper-level math and science, and the state is a top performer in the proportion of high school juniors who score well on Advanced Placement tests."

Connecticut also scores well in the categories of participation rate, degree completion, and social economic benefits to the state as a result of residents' educational levels. The state did not score as well in the category of college affordability.

The full Report Card is available on the National Center for Policy and Higher Education's web site at www.highereducation.org or you may order copies by calling 1-888-269-3652.