



Shaping the Standards: “Higher Standards for Our Students, Higher Standards for Ourselves”

As we near the end of the more-than-four-year-long process of creating NCTM's *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*, we can rightfully celebrate this new milestone in our continuing efforts to improve the mathematics education of all students. Attend the NCTM's 78th Annual Meeting in Chicago, and join your colleagues in the official celebration at the opening session on Wednesday, 12 April 2000, at 5:45 P.M., when the document and accompanying CD-ROM will be presented to the membership.

Throughout the Annual Meeting, sessions will highlight the messages of *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics*. Sessions will also illustrate the features of the electronic edition.

If you cannot attend the meeting, join in the celebration by visiting the NCTM's Web site at www.nctm.org any time after the opening session to preview the electronic edition online. If your membership is current on 1 April 2000, you will receive the print version of *Principles and Standards* shortly after the meeting.

Let us also take a moment to reflect on the journey that has brought the mathematics education profession to this point. In 1994, NCTM formed a commission to study updating the *Standards*. Its positive recommendation, which was based on feedback from the membership, set the process in motion. A writing group of twenty-six mathematics teachers, teacher educators, administrators, researchers, and mathematicians has

spent much time during the past three summers—as well as additional time during the school year—in producing this document. The group first conceptualized the document, next created a discussion draft in summer 1998, and then produced the final document last summer.

The Commission on the Future of the Standards has continued to facilitate the progress of *Principles and Standards*, obtaining feedback from a wide range of audiences during the process. Perhaps most significant were its efforts to solicit reactions to the discussion draft during the 1998–1999 academic year. The writers relied on the comments received in creating the final document. The Electronic Format Group has shaped an electronic edition of the document that moves our efforts into the exciting new age of online publishing. But the hard work of all these individuals would not have been possible without the excitement and involvement of all our members in giving their input and supporting the process.

The result of this concerted effort is a document of which we can be truly proud: it presents finely crafted messages about teaching and learning mathematics, its design is stylish and eye-catching, and it incorporates exciting new features that an electronic edition makes possible. The vision that it presents builds on the foundation of our previous Standards, incorporates the best wisdom that the field has produced over the past decade, and sets the stage for the continued

improvement of mathematics education for all students. The *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics* truly sets “higher standards for our students and higher standards for ourselves.” As we celebrate this historic moment, we must remember that it is in many ways only another step in the challenging work of improving mathematics education. The success of this effort will be realized only when the vision of the *Principles and Standards* becomes a reality in classrooms across the nation. ▲

Share Your Journal

Sharing articles from *Teaching Children Mathematics (TCM)* is an easy way to gain support for trying new activities or techniques in your mathematics classroom. Get other teachers excited about teaching mathematics; talk with your colleagues about ideas or activities featured in *TCM*. Sharing and talking about the journal yield great returns for you and your fellow teachers. Try it, and then tell us about your experiences by writing to “Readers’ Exchange,” NCTM, 1906 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-9988.



Higher Standards for Our Students, Higher Standards for Ourselves

Session 1

Date: Wednesday, 12 April 2000

Time: 5:45 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Location: Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom,
Chicago Annual Meeting

Glenda Lappan, president of NCTM, will pre-
side over this session.

Show Off Your Students!

Each month, the “Problem Solvers” department features a challenging mathematics problem for you to try with your students. Take notes as your students work on the problem, and share with us the insights that you gain from watching their efforts. The editors of the department compile teachers’ reflections and their students’ results, and a short report about these efforts appears in a subsequent issue of *Teaching Children Mathematics*. Sharing your students’ work in “Problem Solvers” is an exciting way to add to the journal, and it is fun to see your students’ work in print! Details on how to contribute are included with each month’s problem.

