

Research Report

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# **Survey & Analysis of Teacher Salary Trends 1998**

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**Produced By:  
The Research Department  
American Federation of Teachers**

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## What Are New American High Schools?

New American High Schools are preparing all students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They are committed to achieving high academic standards for all students, preparing all students for postsecondary education, and providing students opportunities to learn about and explore careers. They have high rates of attendance and high school completion, increased college enrollment and student achievement. They differ from traditional high schools in many ways:

- ✦ **High Standards.** They have clear standards and high expectations for all students.
- ✦ **Small and Safe Environments.** They create small, safe learning environments where students feel connected to the school and are known well and supported by caring adults.
- ✦ **Teachers Working Together.** They have well prepared teachers and provide time for teachers to plan and work together.
- ✦ **Strong Principal Leadership.** They have principals who provide strong, effective leadership, and who work collaboratively with teachers on school improvement.
- ✦ **A Focus on Student Learning.** They focus on learning, not just on earning credits. They make learning relevant. They help students understand how their classroom learning can be used outside the school. They offer internships and community service learning. They provide extra help to students after school, in the summer and on weekends so they can meet higher standards. They have fewer class periods so that students can focus on subjects in depth and have time for projects and experiments.



- ✦ **Technology to Enhance Achievement.** They use technology to expand access to information, enhance instruction, manage schedules and analyze student progress.
- ✦ **Results Oriented.** They use a wide variety of student assessments to ensure that students have mastered their subjects. They use student assessment and evaluation data to continually improve instruction, staff development, management, and organization with the central goal of increasing student achievement.
- ✦ **Strong Partnerships.** They cultivate strong partnerships with parents, middle schools, postsecondary institutions, community leaders, and employers.

## Why Do We Need New American High Schools?

Reports from the National Center for Education Statistics show that many students are not receiving the academic preparation needed to succeed in college and the knowledge-based economy of the 21st Century.

- ✦ More than 20% of young Americans between the ages of 18-25 do not graduate from high school.
- ✦ Of the high school graduates who go on to college, half drop out by the end of their sophomore year.

To succeed in the Information Age, students need to be:

- ✦ Knowledgeable, with a high level of academic skills
- ✦ Effective communicators, thinkers and problem-solvers



- ✦ Able to apply knowledge and skills effectively in work, family and community
- ✦ Able to reason, understand and analyze information
- ✦ Technologically competent
- ✦ Continuous learners



## What Is the New American High School Initiative?

The Department of Education launched the New American High School Initiative in 1996. In coordination with Blue Ribbon Schools, the department recognizes outstanding high schools that are committed to high standards for all students and have achieved excellent results. The initiative showcases schools that represent the broad range of high schools in the country: comprehensive high schools, magnet schools, redesigned vocational-technical schools, charter schools, theme schools, pilot schools and alternative schools serving the needs of at-risk youth.

As part of the initiative, the department provides information and technical assistance, conducts research and evaluations, and promotes standards-based reform efforts.



## How Can Your School or a School in Your Community Become a New American High School?

Schools compete to become New American High Schools. Schools must supply compelling evidence indicating that they have undertaken standards-based, locally driven reform efforts that positively affect key indicators of school improvement and student success. Documentation must include:

- ✦ Increases in student achievement
- ✦ Increases in student enrollment at postsecondary institutions
- ✦ Increases in student attendance
- ✦ Reductions in student dropout rates

If you are interested in learning more, you can get the dates of competitions, a copy of the application, case studies of successful schools, research findings on high school reform, or even take a virtual tour through a New American High School. Visit our web site at [www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/nahs](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/nahs) or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.

## What are the Benefits of Becoming a New American High School?

Schools that become New American High Schools receive immediate benefits. Schools, their districts, and communities gain public recognition of their success. Each school receives a small stipend to cover the cost of outreach and information-sharing activities, including participating in a network with other New American High Schools. Schools have access to a wide variety of technical assistance, including ways to improve their accountability systems and use data for continuously improving school performance. New American High Schools also inform policy and practice at the federal and state level.

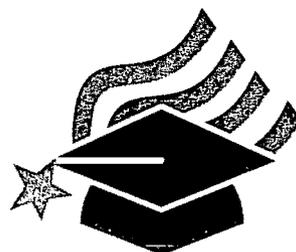
## Access Our Resources and Products:

Call 1-800-USA-LEARN to receive:

- ✦ Applications (package also available on our web site)
- ✦ New American High Schools: Schools at the Leading Edge of Reform
- ✦ Aiming High: Strategies to Promote High Standards
- ✦ In Their Own Words: Students and Educators Talk about What Matters
- ✦ Key High School Reform Strategies: An Overview of Research Findings
- ✦ New American High Schools Video
- ✦ A list of New American High Schools that you can contact directly to discuss strategies that work.

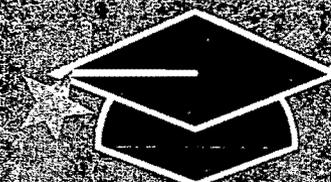
## Visit Our Website

- ✦ Web Site: [www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/nahs](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE/nahs)
- ✦ Virtual Tours: New American High Schools Up Close - CD-ROM video on the Department of Education's home page at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).



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