

institutions of higher education and other public or private nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations for research and demonstration projects relating to the improvement of libraries or of training in librarianship, and for the dissemination of information derived from such research and demonstrations. The Commissioner is also authorized to provide by contracts with public or private agencies, organizations, or institutions for the conduct of such activities.

In addition to its other support programs, the Office also administers a program in certain foreign countries for research of significance to American education. Excess foreign currencies generated from the sale of surplus commodities abroad are used for this purpose. The program is authorized by Public Law 83-480.

Under the authority of the legislative acts cited above, a variety of research activities aimed at the improvement of the whole educational process are now being supported, as follows:

Individual research projects are producing new teaching methods and more meaningful textbooks and instructional materials which encourage self-directed learning in all subject areas, especially in English, mathematics, foreign languages, and science.

To permit further expansion of research, training grants, institutes, workshops, and program development grants are being awarded which will increase the number of educational researchers, strengthen the research resources of small institutions, bring about a broader geographical distribution of research capability, and encourage better balanced research activities in those institutions already engaged in research efforts.

Nine research and development centers, federally supported but university operated, have so far been established, each concentrating its efforts in a particular area of educational research such as teacher training, urban education, the effects of psychological and cultural differences on the learning process, and the organization of higher education.

The educational laboratories now being established will carry on comprehensive programs of research, development, and dissemination serving the educational needs of the Nation as well as of the region in which they are located.

The relationships between educational research and development and other educational agencies are being strengthened so that each can aid the other in formulating and executing their responsibilities.

Out of these efforts, some continuing from previous years, others initiated this past year, a new kind of educational system is emerging. It is designed to recognize obsolescence and to incorporate innovation on a continuing basis. This system is drawing upon some of the best educational, scientific, cultural, and other resources of the Nation. All parts of the education community will eventually participate in this new system. Once a commitment to quality has been made, and once the means of achieving that goal have been identified, research in education will be pursued and informed by all parts of the intellectual community and by every discipline within that community.

4. *Level of operations.* (See table 1.)

Program: Educational research.

Department or agency, and office or bureau: Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Office of Education; Bureau of Educational Research.