

# FOCUS

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## NSB Commission Proposes Plan to Make U.S. Precollege Math and Science Education Finest in World by 1995

**A**fter 17 months of study and deliberation, the National Science Board Commission on Precollege Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology has released its final report. In it, the Commission proposes a plan for making U.S. precollege education in mathematics, science, and technology the world's finest by 1995. The recommendations of the Commission include:

Retraining and upgrading of the 1.16 million elementary and secondary school teachers who presently are less than fully qualified to teach these subjects.

- Rigorous standards for certifying mathematics and science teachers, together with improved training, recognition, and compensation.

- Establishment of 1000 elementary and 1000 secondary exemplary schools and programs throughout the nation to serve as "landmarks of excellence."



An aerial view of Louisville, Kentucky, site of the MAA Annual Meeting in January.

- Formulation of a set of "new basics" to establish a new standard of scientific and technological literacy and a more coherent pattern of K-12 mathematics and science education.
- Substantially increased time devoted to these academic subjects, through increases in the school day, week, or year, as well as through increased discipline in the classrooms.
- Increased time for mathematics and science: 60 minutes per day for mathematics, 30 minutes per day for science; a full year of mathematics and science in grades 7 and 8.
- Increased use of computers and other modern educational technologies for student instruction, teacher training, and classroom management.
- Increased requirements for high school graduation: 3 years of high school mathematics, including 1 year of algebra and 3 years of science and technology, including one semester of computer science.
- Increased requirements for college admission: 4 years of high school science, including physics, chemistry and 1 year of computer science, and 4 years of mathematics, including a second year of algebra and coursework covering probability and statistics.

*(continued on page 2)*

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### Meeting Program Inside

The center section of this issue contains the program for the Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America which will be held in the Commonwealth Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Louisville from Thursday, January 26 through Saturday, January 28, 1984. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Association for Women in Mathematics.

Housing and preregistration forms were mailed to all MAA members in October. The preregistration deadline is December 5, 1983.

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