Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
“A Pioneering Educational Community”

Strategic Planning Overview
June 1989
The greatest human tragedy is the loss of optimism.
The second greatest tragedy is the loss of courage.
ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

"A Pioneering Educational Community"

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. David Barr
Dr. Marcelline Barron
John D. Court
Gail Digate
Dr. Larry Freeman
Dr. Shelagh Gallagher
Dr. Ed Goebel
Merre Lynn Hare
Connie Jo Hatcher
Dr. Ross Hodel
Elia Lopez
Dr. Stephanie P. Marshall
Jack McEachern

Patrick McWilliams
Robert Mellott
George Milauskas
Dr. Christian Nokkentved
Julnar Rizk
Michael Sloan
Dr. LuAnn Smith
Ogden Spruill
Bill Stepien
Cathy Veal
Dr. David Workman
Gregg Worrell
ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

BELIEF STATEMENTS

WE BELIEVE THAT

* meaning is discovered not prescribed.
* all individuals have equal intrinsic worth.
* all people have an innate desire to learn.
* the power of the human mind is the world's greatest resource.
* every individual is capable of both changing and bringing about change.
* trust is essential for any human relationship to prosper.
* the survival of global civilization depends primarily upon the quality of the education provided to all citizens.
* every person is responsible for his/her own choices and actions.
* belonging to a group requires subordination of self-interests to the common good.
* excellence is worth the effort, but not always worth the cost.
* our vision of the future is dependent upon our willingness to sacrifice in the present.
* aversion to risk-taking stifles innovation and creativity.
* learning is an individual, life-long endeavor.
* good learning results from both failure and success.
* all adults share responsibility for the well-being of all children.
* the ability to discern and create connections is the essence of knowing.
* a good life is harmony among the emotions, the body, the intellect, and the spirit.
* the process of education is more than merely the accumulation of facts.
The mission of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, a community of scholars dedicated to intellectual exploration and discovery, is to develop leaders who know the joy of forging interconnections among, mathematics, science, art and humanities and who, by example and by instruction, inspire others to live in harmony with themselves, other human beings, and the physical world.
ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

STRATEGIC POLICIES

We will practice participatory management at all levels of the organization.

We will not allow anything to diminish the self-esteem of any student or staff member.

We will not compromise the quality of our programs and activities because of the lack of funding.

We will not employ or retain anyone who does not believe in and embody the ideas, values, and purpose of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.
All Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy students will demonstrate inventiveness and joy of learning.

To have all faculty/staff achieving and demonstrating inventions/creations.

Within the next five years, at least one hundred individuals, companies, corporations or foundations will commit themselves to a long-term investment of financial and other resources in the Academy and its mission.

By 1993, 25% of the elementary and middle schools in Illinois will use interdisciplinary learning modules developed or originated by the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy faculty, fellows and students that emphasize the interconnections among science, mathematics, arts, and the humanities.

By 1994, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy student body will include at least 15% underrepresented ethnic/racial minorities; 45% female; and will reflect the population distribution of Illinois capable of completing the Academy's graduation requirements.

By 1995, 50% of Illinois' K-12 school districts will have participated in the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy Outreach Programs.
ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

STRATEGIES

I. By our practice we will reconfigure the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy curriculum by developing a concept-centered curriculum.

II. We will involve all who work at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in the creative life of the institution.

III. We will build partnerships with students, teachers, and staff in schools and colleges throughout Illinois that forge the interconnections among mathematics, science, the arts, and the humanities.

IV. We will redefine student achievement and success.

V. By our practice we will redefine teaching as facilitating discovery through interconnecting.

VI. We will support and promote the personal and professional growth of each member of the Academy in his/her efforts to achieve our mission.

VII. We will recruit and maintain a culturally diverse student population composed of learners of exceptional talent in science and mathematics.

VIII. We will meet the needs of students "at-risk".

IX. We will design a marketing plan that will secure the support and participation of a constituency of individuals, corporations, foundations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies committed to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy mission.

X. We will implement an organization structure that facilitates realization of our mission and objectives.

XI. We will secure a financial commitment from the private sector.

XII. We will integrate residential and academic life.