

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Planning, ongoing assessment, and evaluation are procedures inherent to the education profession. Each state, district, and school adopts methods designed to service its needs in carrying out these tasks. Very often, however, because of the lack of clear guidelines for interpreting success, progress was ill defined, and comparisons between districts and individual schools within them lacked symmetry.

The basic level of achievement considered standard for all students nationwide, as well as the quality of service given by the schools that they attend, has been established through the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Through its mandate, all children must perform at or above grade level by the year 2014, and all instruction is to be delivered by highly qualified professionals.

The teaching effectiveness and the accountability for meeting mandates inherent in this law have resulted in states/districts formulating extensive strategies for compliance. Measurement of success takes various forms, requiring consideration of many variables. The year-end improvement plan, also known as the performance/personal improvement plan (PIP), is but one tool of the prerequisite assessment activity. It provides a view of present performance as well as a projection of future goals.

Writing Year-End Teacher Improvement Plans—Right Now!! is dedicated to the completion of this procedure in a qualitative, quantifiable, and purposeful manner. Administrative, supervisory, and teaching professionals will benefit from using this guide as an aide in chronicling present achievements and future goals.

The guide offers the following:

- 65 updated and revised proficiency categories
- New categories reflecting best practices
- An all-new comprehensive annual performance form package with diagnosis, report-of-progress, and summative assessment sections
- Forms containing comment sections for teachers and administrators to detail their partnership throughout the assessment process
- Added emphasis on how teachers and administrators can collaborate to evaluate and plan as a team

- A regrouped vocabulary resource organized by proficiency category
- New sample case studies

Writing Year-End Teacher Improvement Plans—Right Now!! will be extremely relevant and useful in completing the annual performance report, whatever the specific format/criteria used in your district.