

Professional Development Schools: Collaboration and Change

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Concern about the quality of American schools, prominently addressed in *A Nation at Risk* (National Commission on Excellence in Education, 1983), continued to grow throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s as evidence mounted that the downward spiral of American education has continued. In fact, examination of American education has broadened to consider the nature and quality of teacher education, resulting sometimes in blistering criticism of that preparation. Recently, Rita Kramer (1991) in *Ed School Follies* wrote:

The worst of the ed schools are certification mills where the minimally qualified instruct the barely literate in a parody of learning. Prospective teachers leave no more prepared to impart knowledge or inspire learning than when they entered. (p. 220)

Until recently, improvement of the public schools