



EVALUATION INSTITUTE TO INITIATE ENUMERATION OF SCHOOLS IN QATAR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Doha, Qatar, December 16, 2003 – The Evaluation Institute of the Supreme Education Council begins today an extensive enumeration of schools in the State of Qatar. The operation is an important component to the Qatar Education Reform, which was initiated by the Emiri decree (37) of November, 2002 stating the establishment of the Supreme Education Council and its institutes as the main body responsible for overseeing education policies in the country.

The Evaluation Institute is conducting this school enumeration as part of its mandate to monitor educational progress in Qatar. This effort will result in a comprehensive list of principals, teachers, students, and students' parents, and their relationship to a particular school. The Evaluation Institute will also collect class schedules for teachers and students, which will be used to administer a series of questionnaires and student assessments in Spring, 2004. Lastly, the institute will ask principals to complete a School Questionnaire that seeks basic administrative information on their school as well as their insights on improving the education system.

“The ability to have complete and accurate data is essential to making informed decisions about our nation's education system,” said Adel Al Sayed, Director of the Evaluation Institute. “We have a state-of-the-art system to conduct this operation that enables us to make immediate use of the information while it is still current.”

While the enumeration process will require some support from school administrators, it will not create any disruption in classroom instruction. The Evaluation Institute will send approximately 40 staff members into the schools over a two-month period. After completing an intensive training at the Institute, the staff will collect the data using a laptop computer and enumeration software specifically developed for this purpose. Principals will also complete the School Questionnaire by entering their responses directly into a laptop provided by the Institute staff.

The data collected by the Evaluation Institute will be maintained in a highly secure environment that ensures the confidentiality of individuals' responses. “The institute has the highest respect for its survey participants, and maintaining the confidentiality of their responses is our highest priority,” said Al Sayed. “The public's trust on this matter is paramount. We must collect honest and accurate information on the condition of our schools and the abilities of our students to know how to approach this reform effort most appropriately.”

The evaluation institute will enumerate approximately 280 schools, including all public schools, private schools that use a public school curriculum, and the educational complexes.