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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to the Kindergarten through Third Grade teachers of the State of Tennessee. A stellar star among these teachers was the late Peggy Douglas Nabors. Her genial temperament, her love for children, her persistent claim that small classes are in the best interest of children everywhere, and her gracious good-will in expending her energies in classes too large have given inspiration and hope to the writers of this project -- hope that the information contained within these pages will make a positive difference in the educational future of Tennessee's children.

Helen Pate-Bain

FOREWORD

This report presents the results of Tennessee's four-year longitudinal class-size project: Student Teacher Achievement Ratio (STAR). This longitudinal study analyzes student achievement and development in three class types: small classes (13-17 students per teacher), regular classes (22-25 students per teacher) and regular classes (22-25) with a full-time teacher aide.* Project STAR followed students from kindergarten (K) through grade 3, starting in 1985-86 with K and ending in 1988-89 with third grade.

Project researchers collected and analyzed data to answer questions mandated by the legislation and other questions of interest to the project. The primary data analysis was conducted each year by Dr. Jeremy Finn, consultant to Project STAR.

The complete archive report including copies of all instruments is available at the State Department of Education and the state archives. A magnetic data tape is also available.

*Although in the fall of 1989 the Tennessee State Department of Education, in order to avoid confusion, changed the term teacher aide to instructional assistant, the term aide will be used throughout this report.