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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Preface; The RAND Corporation Quality Assurance Process; Contents; Figures; Tables; Summary; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; CHAPTER ONE - Goals, Terms, Methods, and Organization; Purpose; Defining Our Terms; Methodology; Scope; Organization; A Final Note; CHAPTER TWO - A Brief History of the U.S. Middle School; From an "Eight-Four" to a "Six-Six" Grade Configuration; The First Junior High Schools; The Junior High Becomes the Middle School; A Middle School Concept Emerges in the 1980's; Developmental Responsiveness in the 1990's; Role of Professional Organizations Recent Debates and Research Findings Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER THREE - Core Practices of the Middle School Concept; Interdisciplinary Team Teaching; Flexible Scheduling; Advisory Programs; A More Recent Practice: Looping; Obstacles for Implementation; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas;

CHAPTER FOUR - Academic Achievement; Sources of Data and Limitations; Comparing U.S. Students with Their Peers in Other Countries; Performance of Middle Grade Students Over Time; Achievement and the Accountability Movement  
Understanding and Addressing Achievement Gaps Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER FIVE - Conditions for Student Learning; Social-Emotional Problems and School Functioning; Disengagement, Social Alienation, and Dropping Out; Classroom Context and School Climate; School Safety; International Comparisons of Conditions for Learning; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER SIX - Principals; Effective Leadership; Principals' Perceptions of School Problems, Tasks, and Goals; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas  
CHAPTER SEVEN - Promoting Teacher Competence Through Training Preservice Training for Middle School Teachers; Professional Development for Middle School Teachers; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER EIGHT - Parental Involvement; The Many Forms of Parental Involvement; Parent Involvement and Student Achievement; Declining Parental Involvement; SASS Analysis of Parental Involvement in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; CHAPTER NINE - Whole-School Reform Models; Different Ways of Knowing; Turning Points Transforming Middle Schools Model; Making Middle Grades Work  
Middle Start Initiative Talent Development Middle School Model; AIM at Middle Grades Results; Implementation and Sustainability Issues; Challenges, Recommendations, and Exploratory Ideas; CHAPTER TEN - Conclusions and Recommendations; Summary of Findings; Recommendations; Looking to the Future; APPENDIX A - Characteristics of U.S. Public Schools Serving Middle Grades; APPENDIX B - International and National Data Sets; APPENDIX C - Factor Analysis of Health Behavior in School-Aged Children; APPENDIX D - Research Recommendations This; References

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#### Sommario/riassunto

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During the middle school years, young teens undergo multiple physical, socialemotional, and intellectual changes that shape who they are and how they function asadults. The schools young teens attend play a critical role in shaping these futures. Therefore, the state of the U.S. middle school is or should be of concern to all ofus.

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