Panama's Education

Money Spent per \$3,760 per

pupil child

Pupil/Teacher Ra-

1:26

tio:

Students/Librarian: 1:695

Stu-

1:347

dents/Counselor:

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Panama's Family Life

From the moment they are born,

Panama-



nians are very loyal to their family.

Due to their close family ties, it is very common for Panamanians to live with their family until they are married. Often, up to four generations of a Panama family will live under the same roof and this results in nursing homes being basically unheard of.



Panama's Education and Family Life



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Class: Spanish Countries and Cul-

tures

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Panama's Education

Panama's education system has been described to be "One of the worst in the world." For the past 30 years, Panama has not changed anything because the government doesn't want to upset teachers. Throughout the ages of 6 to 15 years old, education is free and compulsory. When the children grow older, education in the secondary and Universities level will cost some money. Some statistics that I have learned is that in 1996 there were 2,849 primary schools with 371,250 students. The student-teacher ratio at the

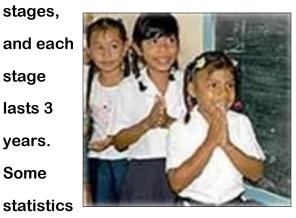
primary school level was estimated to be 26 to 1.



Panama's Education

Secondary education has two

stages, and each stage lasts 3 years. Some



that I have found out regarding Panama's secondary education is that in 1996, secondary schools enrolled 221,022 students, taught by only 12,239 teachers. Also I researched that 98% of primary-school-age children were enrolled in school, while 61% of those eligible attended secondary school. On the positive side, the percentage of students completing the sixth grade is projected to rise from 78% in 1997 to 90% by the year 2002.

Panama's Family Life

Panamanians is that they tend to work very hard, but also enjoy their leisure time as well. Traditionally, Panamanians have preferred to work in commerce, finance, brokerages, and services in general. The military has not been very popular as a career option which may be a good or bad thing. Most of their leisure time is spent in family outings to the beaches, at country homes (most likely where the family has

grown up it), or in social clubs in the cit-

ies. Fam-



ily gatherings may include parties with music, dancing, food, and a whole lot of conversation.