National Assessment Governing Board

November 21, 2009

Resolution

Linking the National Assessment of Educational Progress with International Assessments in 2011

Whereas, in 2011, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is scheduled to be conducted in reading, mathematics, and writing at grades 4, 8, and 12; and

Whereas, in 2011, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is scheduled to be conducted in grades 4 and 8; and

Whereas, in 2011, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) will be conducted at grade 4; and

Whereas, the National Assessment Governing Board recognizes the exceptional opportunity for linking studies afforded by the coincidence of the conduct of these international assessments and NAEP in the same year in 2011; and

Whereas, the conduct of linking studies between international assessments and NAEP would benefit the nation by providing international comparisons of student achievement through national, state and urban district results on NAEP; and

Whereas, factors of cost, operational feasibility, reporting, and impact on the Board-adopted NAEP schedule of assessments must be considered in deciding on whether the linking studies can be implemented in 2011; and

Whereas, information about the availability of appropriations for the implementation of the linking studies will be determined in the future; and

Whereas, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has stated that the planning for NAEP operations in 2011 will begin in December 2009; and

Whereas, the NCES has requested the Governing Board's guidance on the planning for and scope of linking studies between NAEP and international assessments in 2011; and

Whereas, a decision to proceed with planning for linking studies between NAEP and international assessments in 2011 will not prejudice the decision on whether to implement the linking studies; and

Whereas NCES and Governing Board staff must work together to identify the policy implications and tradeoffs related to implementing linking studies;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board resolves that:

1. **planning for the conduct of linking studies between NAEP and international assessments to be carried out in 2011 should proceed;**
2. **such planning should be performed collaboratively by the staff of the National Assessment Governing Board and the staff of the National Center for Education Statistics; and**
3. **the staff of the National Assessment Governing Board and the staff of the National Center for Education Statistics should report to the Governing Board no later than the March 2010 Board meeting on the status of planning for the linking studies and the implications for cost, operations, reporting, and the Board-adopted NAEP schedule of assessments.**