

Resolution to Request Postponement from 2026 to 2027 of NAEP Reading and Mathematics

Whereas, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is authorized by Congress and is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation’s elementary and secondary school students know and can do;

Whereas, since 1969, NAEP has been the nation’s foremost resource for measuring student progress and identifying differences in student achievement across various student subgroups;

Whereas, the National Assessment Governing Board was established by Congress to “formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment” (20 USC §9621(a));

Whereas, the Governing Board is charged with providing advice to the Commissioner for Education Statistics in carrying out the National Assessment (20 USC §9622(a));

Whereas, the NAEP Authorization Act requires that NAEP be administered in public and private schools in reading and mathematics every 2 years in grades 4 and 8;

Whereas, the Every Student Succeeds Act mandates that states participate in the biennial reading and mathematics NAEP assessments in grades 4 and 8;

Whereas, Congress authorized the Governing Board to determine additional NAEP subjects to be assessed beyond the mandated assessments in reading and mathematics;

Whereas, it is important that NAEP continue to be an independent, objective measure of educational achievement and progress, free from partisan influences or special interests, as there remains a critical need to collect reliable and valid data to understand and compare student achievement across the nation, states, select large urban districts, and various student subgroups to support effective policy, research, and resource allocation;

Whereas, the Governing Board has policy oversight for the NAEP program, and in consultation with the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics, seeks to uphold NAEP as the gold standard in student assessment;

Whereas, the administration of NAEP occurring off-cycle from federal midterm and presidential elections was longstanding practice and was disrupted when Congress provided an emergency waiver, moving the planned 2021 administration to 2022, due to the pandemic.

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board requests that the Congress postpone the NAEP reading and mathematics assessments scheduled for 2026 to 2027, with subsequent assessments every two years thereafter, to ensure that the reading and mathematics assessments are administered off-cycle from federal midterm and presidential elections.