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Eligibility Criteria and Procedures for Selecting Districts for Participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress Trends in Urban District Assessment

Policy Statement

Purpose

To define the eligibility criteria and selection procedures for inviting urban school districts to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Trends in Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

Guiding Principles

Principle 1

Participation in TUDA shall be voluntary.

Principle 2

A primary goal of TUDA is to provide district-level data about student achievement in the nation's large urban districts which allow analyses of unique urban education issues collectively and individually.

Principle 3

Districts participating in TUDA shall encompass a Census-designated city that has a population of at least 250,000 residents living in high-density census blocks.

Principle 4

Districts applying for participation in TUDA should be committed to continual participation. All districts which have participated in TUDA without interruption once included shall be deemed eligible and permitted to continue to participate. TUDA districts whose participation is interrupted may volunteer to participate again and will be considered for continued eligibility.

Principle 5

Selection criteria for participation in TUDA shall promote (1) inter-district comparability; (2) efficiency in assessment administration; and (3) regional representation across the nation.

Principle 6

Increasing the total number of districts participating in TUDA shall be contingent on available funding from Congress.

Principle 7

The Governing Board implements the selection procedures to determine which districts are invited to participate in TUDA.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Only districts encompassing cities with 250,000 or more population shall be represented in TUDA.
2. Districts participating in TUDA shall have a student enrollment large enough to support NAEP assessments in at least two subjects in each grade assessed. The enrollment requirement is a minimum of 1,100 students per subject per grade level assessed.
3. Districts participating in TUDA shall have an enrollment district-wide, or in the grade levels assessed, which meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) 50% or more belong to traditionally underrepresented student groups (e.g., American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander)
 - b) 50% or more are classified as economically disadvantaged
4. Eligibility data shall be updated and verified periodically.

Selection Process

To provide time for consultation, notification, and operational planning for the conduct of the Trends in Urban District Assessment program, the steps below should be sequenced to conclude approximately **14 months** prior to the start of testing.

1. Prior to the assessment year in which TUDA is to be conducted, Governing Board staff, in consultation with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), prepares a list of eligible districts and posts that list on the Governing Board website.
2. Based on funding from Congress and the decision of any previous TUDA participant not to continue, the Governing Board determines whether new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration.
3. If the Governing Board determines that new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration, the Governing Board Executive Director and NCES Commissioner send a jointly-signed letter notifying eligible districts of the opportunity to submit an application and the instructions for applying.
4. Eligible districts seeking to participate in TUDA apply to the Executive Director of the Governing Board. The application should be signed by the district superintendent or designee, include the most recent information documenting the district's enrollment and eligibility, and contain a commitment for long-term participation in TUDA if selected.
5. Governing Board staff shall review applications in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Board, staff of the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools.
6. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall recommend new districts for participation in TUDA to the Governing Board for final action.
7. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall send notification of the Board's decision regarding district participation in TUDA to the district and to the Commissioner of Education Statistics.

Potential Pool of Eligible Districts

The list of eligible districts shall be posted on the website of the National Assessment Governing Board (www.naqb.gov) and made publicly available through other appropriate means. The list of eligible districts will change periodically due to changes in district population.