



This is the official record of Board actions and Committee reports for the quarterly meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board on March 1-3, 2012 in New Orleans. The resolutions adopted have been designated as action items. They are as follows:

- Release plan for the NAEP 2011 Science Report Card in grade 8 for the nation and the states, to be released in April or May 2012.
- Approval of the following cognitive and background questions:
 - Pilot Civics cognitive items in grades 4, 8, and 12 for the 2014 assessment.
 - Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) computer-based tasks in grade 8 for the 2014 assessment.
 - Pilot U.S. History, Civics, and Geography background questions for students, teachers, and schools in grades 4, 8, and 12 for the 2014 assessment.
 - Pilot Reading and Mathematics background questions for students, teachers, and schools in grades 4 and 8 for the 2015 assessment.

The action on assessment items, tasks, and background questions, listed above, was taken by the Assessment Development Committee under a standing delegation of authority from the full Governing Board. Changes to the items and tasks have been provided in writing to the National Center for Education Progress (NCES).

In addition, the Executive Committee agreed that the development of new items for the scheduled 2014 assessments in U.S. history, civics, and geography should be put on hold because of uncertainty about the budget outlook for NAEP. No change in the schedule of assessments is being proposed because it is possible to conduct these assessments with current items.

At the meeting, Marshall S. Smith, chairman of the Expert Panel on NAEP Background Questions, presented the panel's report to the full Board and the Reporting and Dissemination Committee. NCES is requested to comment on the panel recommendations.

In addition, Board staff will be obtaining comment from interested organizations and the public. Board staff will consult with NCES in making recommendations on priorities and implementation activities at the next Board meeting in May 2012.

A number of other issues were addressed by Board committees that may entail follow-up by NCES. These will be discussed further by Governing Board and NCES staff. Specific items include:

- The Assessment Development Committee requested an update on additional findings from the two-stage, computer-based assessment of Mathematics conducted in 2011.
- The Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM) recommended that a booklet of student writing samples on two topics be used to illustrate each achievement level for the 2011 Writing assessment. Board staff will work with NCES to determine how the exemplars will be presented in the published report on assessment results.
- The Reporting and Dissemination Committee will be considering topics for focused reports that may be issued over the next two years. NCES is requested to provide information on the availability of data and funding for possible reports listed in the briefing materials, including a report on private schools through 2011 and one on charter schools through 2013.