

**National Assessment Governing Board**  
**Assessment Development Committee**  
**Report of May 14-15, 2015**

**May 14, 2015**

**Assessment Development Committee (ADC) Members:** Shannon Garrison (Chair), Cary Sneider (Vice Chair), Frank Fernandes, Dale Nowlin, Susan Pimentel, Chasidy White.

**Governing Board Staff:** Mary Crovo, Michelle Blair, Laura LoGerfo.

**NCES Staff:** Jamie Deaton.

**Other Attendees:** AIR: Kim Gattis, Fran Stancavage. CRP: Ed Wofford. ETS: Debby Almonte, Jonas Bertling, Jay Campbell, Greg Vafis. HumRRO: Steve Sellman. Optimal Solutions Group: Rukayat Akinbiyi.

**1. ACTION: Review of NAEP Subject-Specific Contextual Variables**

Jamie Deaton of NCES provided an overview of the development process for NAEP contextual variables. Mr. Deaton noted the timeline and various contractors and committees involved in the process, and highlighted points at which the ADC reviews the variables at different stages. The current review is to determine which questions will be used in the 2016 pilot testing in reading and mathematics at grades 4 and 8, and for writing at grades 8 and 12. Questions were reviewed for students, teachers, and schools.

Mr. Deaton reviewed key recommendations being implemented in these contextual variables including increasing the number of response options, revising the approach to pilot testing, and using a matrix format for grade 4. In terms of the revised approach to pilot testing, Mr. Deaton explained that in the past the pilot was considered a dress rehearsal for the operational assessment. Now NCES views the pilot as an opportunity for additional testing of the questions using a split sample approach. In this design, some students will receive one form of certain questions and other students will receive another form to enable comparisons and selection of the best questions based on pilot data.

The ADC had a number of general and specific comments on the contextual questions, as well as complements on the quality and clarity of many questions. Committee members were pleased to see so many of the previous recommendations implemented in this set of questions. However, there were still outstanding issues related to wording, trend items, and other areas. The ADC

completed their review of mathematics and writing questions and continued the contextual variable review for reading at their May 15, 2015 meeting.

## **May 15, 2015**

**Assessment Development Committee (ADC) Members:** Shannon Garrison (Chair), Cary Sneider (Vice Chair), Frank Fernandes, Dale Nowlin, Susan Pimentel, Chasidy White

**Governing Board Staff:** Mary Crovo

**NCES Staff:** Jamie Deaton, Arnold Goldstein

**Other Attendees:** AIR: Kim Gattis. ETS: Debby Almonte, Jay Campbell, Greg Vafis. Fulcrum IT: Kevin Price.

### **1. ACTION: Review of NAEP Subject-Specific Contextual Variables**

The ADC continued its review of subject-specific contextual variables, which began at the May 14, 2015 meeting. The Committee reviewed reading contextual variables and had a number of comments and clarifications. Following their review and discussion, the ADC unanimously approved the following motion, under its delegation of authority from the full Board:

**ACTION: The Assessment Development Committee approves the subject-specific contextual variables in reading, mathematics, and writing for the 2016 pilot with changes to be communicated in writing to NCES.**

### **2. Update on the 2014 NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) Reporting**

Arnold Goldstein of NCES presented an update on the TEL web-based report design. Mr. Goldstein noted that a number of the recommendations from the March 6, 2015 joint meeting of the ADC and Reporting and Dissemination Committee have been implemented in the current design of the report.

Mr. Goldstein displayed page views of the draft TEL report design and invited ADC feedback. Members were pleased that many of their previous recommendations had been made, however the TEL report website needs more work. The ADC members provided detailed feedback on each page of the mock-up. Overall, the report website needs to be as dynamic and innovative as the TEL assessment to appeal to as many users as possible, and to communicate the importance and engaging nature of this new assessment. Greater use of color and animation is needed throughout the website, and the home page should have a cleaner, simpler design. A major change the ADC would like to see is having a prominent link on the home page for users to take the TEL tasks. Finally, the Committee requested that the TEL report website be dedicated to

Alan Friedman, the previous ADC chair and TEL champion, who passed away in 2014. Detailed comments for improving the TEL report website will be communicated to NCES in writing.

**3. NAEP Item Review Schedule**

Mary Crovo of the Governing Board staff reviewed the new Item Review Schedule with the ADC. She noted that the next review will be the concept sketches (or outlines) for the 2018 U.S. History, Civics, and Geography assessments. As NAEP transitions to a digital-based format, it will be important for ADC members to have access to the same type of digital tablet as the students use for the NAEP assessment, to eliminate differences across devices in formatting or other superficial aspects of the tasks.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



Shannon Garrison, Chair

May 22, 2015  
Date