



February 15, 2012

Dear Board Member,

We have prepared the agenda and briefing materials for the March 1-3 meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board. These materials are now available on the Governing Board Members' website at <https://www.nagb.org/content/members.html>. The March meeting will be in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 601 Loyola Ave., a landmark recently renovated and reopened in downtown.

Board member Doris Hicks, principal of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School, will be our local host. On Thursday morning before the Board meeting, members will visit her flourishing school in the lower Ninth Ward, an area heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. We thank Doris for her hospitality and enthusiasm.

I strongly encourage all Board members to attend the Executive Committee meeting, which starts at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. It will include an hour-long closed briefing on the NAEP budget and alternatives in light of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2013.

There are a number of briefings on the full Board agenda related to changes NAEP may wish to make over the next few years. The speakers will be:

- Edward Haertel, chair of an expert panel summarizing discussions from an NCES-sponsored initiative on the Future of NAEP. Haertel is professor of education at Stanford University and a former member of the Governing Board.
- Marshall S. (Mike) Smith, chair of the Board's Expert Panel on NAEP Background Questions. Smith is a former U.S. Under Secretary of Education and education dean at Stanford.
- Andreas Schleicher, head of education indicators and analysis for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), sponsor of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Board member Tonya Miles will present the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on NAEP Parent Engagement, which she chaired, and Board Chairman David Driscoll will lead a discussion on the Making a Difference Initiative.

In addition, members will receive a closed briefing from Associate NCES Commissioner Peggy Carr on the special study in the 2009 NAEP science assessment of hands-on and interactive computer tasks (HOTs and ICTs) that may become more widely-used in the future. There will also be a briefing on Governing Board research on the preparedness of 12th graders for college and job training, which will be the basis for a special Board report in the summer.

As you can see from the paragraphs above, this will be a full and interesting meeting, looking strongly toward the future. The Board itself is making a change in its operations. For the first time all briefing materials are being transmitted in electronic format only. The change should make it easier (we expect) for members and visitors to access, organize, and transport the documents they need rather than using—and carrying—the large paper briefing books the Board has had for many years. Of course, if you need further assistance in any of your preparations for the meeting, please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cornelia".

Cornelia S. Orr
Executive Director