



July 24, 2012

Dear Board Member,

Attached are the agenda and briefing materials for the August 2-4 meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board. The meeting will be in Washington, DC at the St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th St., NW, which is near the White House in the center of the city.

At this meeting there will be discussion and consideration of a number of important topics and issues:

- A representative of the U.S. Department of Defense will make a presentation on Friday morning about the school system operated for children of military dependents on U.S. and overseas bases, and the system's achievement trends on NAEP.
- All three of the Board's standing committees will discuss revised plans for reporting research on 12th grade preparedness followed by a full Board discussion on Saturday morning.
- During Friday's working lunch session, the Board will receive an embargoed preview of the 2011 Writing Report Card, highlighting results from NAEP's first fully computer-based assessment.
- Several agenda sessions will focus on the relationship between NAEP and the Common Core State Standards, including a Friday briefing by directors of the two state assessment consortia.
- A representative from Secretary Arne Duncan's office will brief the Board on NAEP's role in the Race to the Top federal program of competitive grants to states.

Board discussions on both Common Core and preparedness reporting are part of a two-hour session on Saturday morning at which all members are encouraged to contribute their views. Other topics for this session are the parent engagement initiative, planning for the Board's 25th anniversary, and reflections of four members whose Board service ends September 30.

On Saturday morning the Board will also consider action on the report by the Expert Panel on strengthening NAEP background questions, which will be preceded by a joint meeting on Friday of the Assessment Development and Reporting and Dissemination Committees. Additional action items include election of the Board Vice Chair for a term beginning in October 2012, a revised policy for the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), and several NAEP report release plans.

This promises to be a productive meeting. If you need further assistance in preparing for it, please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cornelia S. Orr".

Cornelia S. Orr
Executive Director