

# ***National Assessment Governing Board***

## ***Strategic Vision Implementation***

On November 18, 2016, the National Assessment Governing Board unanimously adopted its Strategic Vision to focus the Board's work from 2017-2020. This approval marked the beginning of the implementation phase which is to be overseen by the Governing Board and conducted primarily by the Board staff in large partnership with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

As the Strategic Vision initiative transitions to the Governing Board staff to implement, the March 2017 Board meeting is a critical time for Board members to provide policy guidance and direction on the work planned. In preparation, the Executive Committee worked with the staff—including a two-day in-person meeting in February—to develop a draft set of activities and committee assignments (*internal document sent under separate cover*).

The March 2017 Board meeting agenda is designed to encourage both detailed discussions about these draft work projects and high level discussions of the implementation process. The Assessment Development Committee (ADC), Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM), and the Reporting and Dissemination Committee (R&D) will build on the Executive Committee's efforts by reviewing the draft set of activities and discussing the work necessary to accomplish the goals and priorities set forth in the Strategic Vision. In plenary session on Saturday, March 4, the Governing Board will discuss the implementation process and timeline for the duration of the Strategic Vision initiative.



## National Assessment Governing Board's **Strategic Vision**

**The Nation's Report Card, also known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), was developed in 1969 to answer the important question: "How are our nation's students doing?" The National Assessment Governing Board established this Strategic Vision to not only answer the first question, but also to expand NAEP's impact by addressing a second question: "How can NAEP provide information about how our students are doing in the most innovative, informative, and impactful ways?"**

Congress created the independent, bipartisan Governing Board in 1988 to set policy guidelines for The Nation's Report Card, which is the largest nationally representative, continuing evaluation of the condition of education in the United States. In statute Congress charged the Governing Board to identify NAEP subjects to be tested, determine the content and achievement levels for each assessment, approve all test questions, and take steps to improve the form, reporting, and use of results.

The Governing Board partners with the National Center for Education Statistics, which administers the NAEP program, to inform a wide range of stakeholders—including policymakers, educators, researchers, business leaders, the media, and the general public—about what America's students know and can do in various subject areas, and compare achievement data over time and among student demographic groups. This allows the nation to understand where more work must be done to improve learning among all students.

The Governing Board fulfills its statutory mission by continuously reviewing and revising its policies and practices to ensure The Nation's Report Card measures and reports meaningful information to the public.

The educational landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> century demands increased academic ambition, greater technological sophistication, improved civic participation, and expanded global perspectives for all students. In this time of rapid and accelerating change, it is essential for The Nation's Report Card to support innovation and address the need to improve student achievement, while maintaining its timeless promise to serve as the constant and unassailable measure of student achievement for our nation. To increase the value of The Nation's Report Card as a resource to impact student achievement, the Governing Board adopted this Strategic Vision with a dual focus on innovating to enhance NAEP's form and content and informing stakeholders to expand NAEP's dissemination and use.



## Inform

**The National Assessment Governing Board will promote The Nation's Report Card's wealth of information to facilitate the awareness and uses of NAEP in appropriate, timely, new, and meaningful ways. Examples of NAEP resources include: results; trends; test questions and tasks; studies; measurement innovations; frameworks that specify the content and design of NAEP assessments; and contextual variables about student demographics and educational experiences collected from students, teachers, and schools. The Governing Board will:**

- Strengthen and expand partnerships by broadening stakeholders' awareness of NAEP and facilitating their use of NAEP resources.
- Increase opportunities to connect NAEP to administrative data and state, national, and international student assessments.
- Expand the availability, utility, and use of NAEP resources, in part by creating new resources to inform education policy and practice.
- Promote sustained dissemination and use of NAEP information beyond Report Card releases with consideration for multiple audiences and ever-changing multi-media technologies.



## Innovate

**The National Assessment Governing Board will revise the design, form, and content of The Nation's Report Card using advances in technology to keep NAEP at the forefront of measuring and reporting student achievement. The Governing Board will:**

- Develop new approaches to update NAEP subject area frameworks to support the Board's responsibility to measure evolving expectations for students, while maintaining rigorous methods that support reporting student achievement trends.
- Continue improving the content, analysis, and reporting of NAEP contextual variables by considering the questions' relevance, sensitivity, and potential to provide meaningful context and insights for policy and practice.
- Research policy and technical implications related to the future of NAEP Long-Term Trend assessments in reading and mathematics.
- Research assessments used in other countries to identify new possibilities to innovate the content, design, and reporting of NAEP.
- Develop policy approaches to revise the NAEP assessment subjects and schedule based on the nation's evolving needs, the Board's priorities, and NAEP funding.
- Develop new approaches to measure the complex skills required for transition to postsecondary education and career.

***This Strategic Vision will focus the work of the Governing Board through the year 2020. By pursuing these priorities, the Governing Board will ensure that The Nation's Report Card provides the country with valuable data that measure and contribute to the improvement of student progress in achieving important knowledge and skills necessary for success as citizens in our democratic society.***

*Unanimously approved November 18, 2016*