

## NAGB/CCSSO State Policy Task Force Background

Since September 2007, the National Assessment Governing Board (Governing Board) has worked with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) through a State Policy Task Force. The Task Force is charged with providing input and feedback to the Governing Board on policy areas and activities related to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The dual goals of this collaboration are (1) to inform the Governing Board's policy-setting work with state perspectives and (2) to help implement initiatives under the Governing Board's legislative mandate.

The Task Force comprises 12 leaders in state educational agencies. The members currently include five deputy or assistant superintendents, and two public information (or communications) officers, two chiefs of staff, and three assessment and accountability directors. Members are chosen based on their assessment expertise and geographic representativeness across the nation. They offer diverse viewpoints, which lend invaluable insight into the Governing Board's deliberations about NAEP. The membership roster changes on an ongoing basis as members transition between roles within state education agencies or transition out of state employment entirely. The current members are listed below:

### State Policy Task Force Membership 2025

Dan Farley	Oregon	Assistant Superintendent, Research, Assessment, Data, Accountability, and Reporting
Tammy Howard	North Carolina	Senior Director, Office of Accountability and Testing
David Jespersen	Nebraska	Public Information Officer
Abe Krisst (Chair)	Connecticut	Assessment Bureau Chief
Darin Nielsen	Utah	Assistant Superintendent, Student Learning
Kimako Patterson	Illinois	Chief of Staff
Victoria Robinson (Vice Chair)*	Tennessee	Assistant Commissioner, Communications and Engagement
Dicky Shanor	Wyoming	Chief of Staff
Michael Sibley	Alabama	Director, Communications
Viji Somasundaram	Wisconsin	Director, Office of Educational Accountability
Zachary Warner	New York	Assistant Commissioner, Office of State Assessment
Thomas Woods-Tucker	Kentucky	Deputy Commissioner of Education

*\*Victoria Robinson recently departed the Tennessee Department of Education, and CCSSO is currently working to fill her seat as well as the vacant vice chair position.*

The Task Force meets three times a year, during which Task Force members share general updates about their state assessment programs and NAEP. In recent months, the Governing Board sought Task Force member feedback on updated NAEP assessment frameworks, the NAEP administration schedule, and the communications strategy for the release of NAEP results

About once a year, the Governing Board invites a representative of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the chair of the State Policy Task Force to present task force accomplishments and share progress updates at a quarterly board meeting. At this meeting, Anne Bowles, Senior Director, Programs at CCSSO, will present along with Task Force Chair Abe Krisst from Connecticut. Both panelists' biographies are presented below.



**Anne Bowles** joined the Council of Chief State School Officers in October 2018 and serves as Senior Director, Programs. Anne is responsible for providing overall direction, coordination, and supervision for the Council's direct support to states aligned to CCSSO's priorities in teaching and learning and assessment and accountability. Prior to joining CCSSO, Anne served in a number of roles on the policy, advocacy, and leadership teams at Achieve, a nonprofit committed to working with states to prepare students for success in college and career. Prior to Achieve, she served as a Policy and Outreach Associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy and as a Program Associate with the American Youth Policy Forum. Anne began her career in education as middle school teacher in New York City. Anne earned her bachelor's in sociology from the University of Michigan, master's in education from Pace University and a certificate in nonprofit management from Georgetown University.



**Abe Krisst** has worked at the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) for over 22 years and currently oversees Connecticut's summative assessment system. The state summative assessment system includes: the Smarter Balanced Assessments, the Next Generation Science Standards Assessments, the Connecticut SAT School Day, the Connecticut Alternate Assessment System, the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment, the English Language Proficiency Assessment, and the Kindergarten Entrance Inventory. He

serves as a Bureau Chief in the Performance Office (at the CSDE) where the mission of the office is to improve student outcomes through the use of data and technology. In addition to Abe's leadership with large scale assessments, he also supports other critical projects including data collections, information technology, data reporting, research/analyses, and accountability.