

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD



COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS, DESIGN & METHODOLOGY MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, August 6, 2026

3:45 - 5:30 pm EDT

National Salon A

3:45 - 3:50 pm

Welcome and Session Overview

Suzanne Lane, Chair

3:50 - 4:20 pm

**Revising the Reading and Math
Reporting Achievement Level
Descriptions for 2026**

*Becky Dvorak, Assistant Director for
Psychometrics*

Attachment A

4:20 - 4:30 pm

Updates: Planned Research Studies

Becky Dvorak

4:30 - 5:30 pm

**2026 Automated Scoring of Reading
Items (CLOSED)**

*Helena Jia, ETS
Sue Lottridge, Pearson*

Attachment B

Revising the Reading and Math Reporting Achievement Level Descriptions for 2026

Goal

The purpose of this session is to inform COSDAM members of the progress towards updating the NAEP Achievement Level Descriptions for Reporting (Reporting ALDs) for reading and math at grades 4 and 8 ahead of the 2026 data release.

Overview

The Assistant Director for Psychometrics will provide information about the contract awarded to revise the Reporting ALDs, the key activities and timeline, and when COSDAM members should expect to see draft and final products.

Background

The Reporting ALDs for reading and math at grades 4 and 8 were initially developed in 2022 under the previous NAEP assessment frameworks. They will undergo minor updates to address framework changes in advance of the 2026 report card release. These key changes include the addition of Mathematical Practices in the math framework, and the splitting of the prior Reading for Information subscale into separate Reading to Engage in Science and Reading to Engage in Social Studies subscales. The update will also include a review to determine if any existing content is no longer relevant.

COSDAM determined it best to conduct a small scale update in 2026 and hold off for a larger update with an alignment study aspect until 2028 because: (1) many of the content and items in 2026 overlap with the past framework, and it generally takes more than one administration to fully adapt to a new framework; and (2) Grade 12 will not be assessed until 2028. Holding off on a larger study until 2028 would allow all three grade levels to be considered together.

2026 Automated Scoring of Reading Items (CLOSED)

Goal

The goal of this session is to share findings from automated scoring of 2026 NAEP Reading constructed response items. This session will be closed to allow inclusion of data and operational items that are not publicly available.

Overview

The NAEP Scoring contractor will present findings from automated scoring of reading constructed-response items for 2026. The findings will focus on comparing how closely automated scores matched human scores.

Background

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducted automated scoring of constructed response items for the first time operationally in 2026 – for NAEP Reading. COSDAM has been following progress towards automated scoring in recent years, including in March 2026 when Pearson presented the plans for 2026. At that time, they reported they were able to build successful scoring models for almost all constructed response reading items trained by previously scored data. To prepare for 2026 scoring, items were categorized as fully automatically scored, partially automatically scored (for items in which certain score points would be human scored), or human scored. All automatically scored items were to include a sample of 10 percent human scores to monitor reliability.