NAEP and Academic Preparedness

Presentation to the National Assessment Governing Board

Ronnie Musgrove, Commission Chair

August 2, 2013 | Washington, DC

The Mission

"Increase awareness of the importance of preparing students academically for postsecondary education or training for employment after high school, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Communicate effectively with the public, policy makers, educators and potential employers on the results and findings of the NAEP preparedness research."

Commission Members

Governor Ronnie Musgrove
Former Governor of Mississippi

Greg Jones
President & CEO (retired)
State Farm General Insurance

Governor John Engler
Former Governor of Michigan
President,
The Business Roundtable

Michael J. Guerra
Former Executive Director of Secondary Schools, National Catholic Educational Association

Nancy K. Kopp
Maryland State Treasurer

Raymund Paredes
Commissioner,
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Eileen Weiser
Member, Michigan State Board of Education; National Assessment Governing Board

NAEP 12th GRADE PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION

Commission Advisors

Mark Musick

James H. Quillen Chair of Excellence in Education and Teaching, East Tennessee State University

Darvin M. Winick

Executive Director, Institute for Public School Initiatives, The University of Texas at Austin

7 Symposia on The Nation's Report Card and 12th Grade Academic Preparedness

★June 2011	Sacramento, CA
★Oct. 2011	Boston, MA
★Nov. 2011	Nashville, TN
★April 2012	Jackson, MS
★April 2012	Tallahassee, FL
★Dec. 2012	Charleston, WV
★July 2013	Washington, DC

Regional Symposia: Goals

- Discuss NAEP as preparedness indicator; preparedness research and results
- Reach leaders in K-12, higher ed., business, civil rights, legislative policy
- Solicit participants' views on:
  - Relevance and utility of NAEP as preparedness indicator
  - Additional research/Potential partners

Impact

- Reached over 600 leaders in K-12, higher education, business community, civil rights, and legislative policy
- Symposia provided a unique forum for state and national leaders to reflect publicly on the value of NAEP and the 12th grade preparedness initiative

Major “Take-aways” Across the Symposia

- NAEP is widely supported
- There is consistent support for the NAEP preparedness initiative
- This is true across K-12, higher education, the business community, and the political spectrum
- There is widespread concern and attention to the preparedness of 12th graders for college and job training among national and state leaders and policymakers

DC Symposium

- Two Panels:
  - **NAEP and Academic Preparedness for College**
    - **Mitchell Chester, Chester Finn, Glenda Glover, Carmel Martin**
  - **NAEP and Academic Preparedness for job training**
    - **Anthony Carnevale, Roberts Jones, Jacqueline King, Carl Mack, Cheryl Oldham**

DC Symposium Major "Take-aways"

COLLEGE:

- General support for 12th grade NAEP as a preparedness indicator for college, based on the research results
- NAEP is a valuable "truth teller"
- Interest in seeing more research aimed at NAEP and college outcomes (i.e., longitudinal studies)
- Interest in seeing research at lower grades
- It would be useful for NAEP to examine qualitative measures needed for success
- NAEP is valuable as a "constant yardstick" against which other standards and testing initiatives may be examined during this time of change

DC Symposium Major "Take-aways"

Job Training:

- Defining, measuring, and validating "academic preparedness for job training" is difficult and a major challenge
- Avoid presenting different standards for college and for job training (concern this could lead to tracking)
- Twelfth graders should be held to the same academic standard—whether pursuing college or a career
- Replace "job training" with another term that suggests preparedness to progress through a career
- With technical requirements continually evolving and job-training programs often out of date, it may not be possible or useful to have a single definition of academic preparedness for job training
- "Adaptability skills" and college-level academic criteria may be more useful concepts, given that today's students may have occupations that haven't been invented yet