

Adopted: August 3, 2002



National Assessment Governing Board

Resolution on Participation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the National Assessment of Educational Progress

Policy Statement

Whereas, Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires all states to assure that they will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in fourth and eighth grade reading and mathematics every other year beginning in 2003;

Whereas, for the purposes of the Title I legislation and the NAEP legislation, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is defined as a state;

Whereas, in order to receive Title I funds, education officials of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico must assure in their Title I plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Education that the Commonwealth will participate in the NAEP in fourth and eighth grade reading and mathematics every other year beginning in 2003;

Whereas, Spanish is the language of instruction and testing for reading and mathematics in public schools of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, according to the Commonwealth's Title I plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Education;

Whereas, Spanish being the language of instruction and testing in mathematics and reading in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico suggests consideration of the use of Spanish in assessments of students in Puerto Rico conducted by the NAEP;

Whereas, a purpose of the state-level component of NAEP is to provide results that can be compared within states, across states, and to the Nation over time;

Whereas, producing comparable state-level results from assessments translated into different languages is a technically difficult undertaking for which there has been little implementation in the United States, has not previously been attempted as a part of NAEP, and requires significant time and resources to validate;

Whereas, the NAEP has experience in translating NAEP mathematics test questions into Spanish for use as a testing accommodation for limited English proficient students, but not for producing state comparable results;

Whereas, appropriately providing for the participation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in NAEP reading assessments in grade 4 and grade 8 is complex, will require substantial study and consultation to determine the parameters and requirements of such assessments, and, for these reasons, is not feasible by 2003;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board resolves:

1. To endorse the translation into Spanish of the NAEP grade 4 and grade 8 mathematics assessments for use in 2003 in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
2. That the NAEP grade 4 and grade 8 mathematics assessments translated into Spanish shall be used solely in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on a research and development basis in 2003;
3. That the primary objectives of conducting such assessments in 2003 would be to:
 - a. provide appropriately for the inclusion of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a participant, pursuant to requirements of Title I, in NAEP grade 4 and grade 8 mathematics assessments in 2003,
 - b. provide NAEP state-level results at grade 4 and 8 in mathematics for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for 2003,
 - c. determine the validity of comparisons of results for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to overall results for the United States and to state-level jurisdictions in NAEP grade 4 and grade 8 mathematics for 2003, and
 - d. identify and address conceptual, technical, logistical, and resource issues related to the participation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in NAEP subsequent to 2003.
4. That the Governing Board staff, in consultation with the staff of the National Center for Education Statistics, shall prepare a paper, to be presented at the November 2002 Board meeting. The paper shall describe the issues, constraints, and options for including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the NAEP reading assessment in grades 4 and 8 and will be used as a basis for informing subsequent decisions about this matter by the Governing Board.