

Resolution:
Reporting on Preparedness of 12th Grade Students for College-Credit Course Work, Training for Employment, and Entrance into the Military

Preamble

In November 2002, the National Assessment Governing Board established the National Commission on NAEP 12th Grade Assessment and Reporting. The Commission was established to develop recommendations to address 12th grade school and student participation rates, which had been falling, and otherwise improve the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) at the 12th grade. The Commission presented its recommendations to the Governing Board in March 2004. Since their presentation, the Governing Board has been deliberating purposefully on the desirability and feasibility of the Commission recommendations.

The purpose of the resolution that follows is to address the Commission recommendation that

“NAEP should report 12th grade students’ readiness for college-credit coursework, training for employment, and entrance into the military.”

Whereas, the economic and strategic position of the United States in the world hinges in large part upon the quality of the knowledge and skills imparted to its citizens by the nation’s state and local education systems; and

Whereas, grade 12 is the endpoint of elementary and secondary education in the United States and marks the transition point to postsecondary pursuits, such as college, training for employment, and military service; and

Whereas, education beyond high school is becoming increasingly necessary for the economic well being of the nation and for the access to opportunities and quality of life for the individuals who will be assuming adult roles in the years ahead; and

Whereas, the proportion of high school students planning to get a bachelor’s degree or higher is increasing; and

Whereas, significant proportions of college freshmen are not well-prepared for college-credit coursework and require some form of remediation in reading, mathematics or writing; and

Whereas, employers estimate that large numbers of recent high school graduates are unprepared for the requirements of entry level positions; and

Whereas, about one-fourth of the nation's youth are not qualified to enter military service based on their performance on the military enlistment test,

Whereas, assessing the preparedness of 12th grade students for college-credit course work, training for employment, and entrance into the military is vital in monitoring our nation’s prospects for the future;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board resolves that:

- 1. NAEP will pursue assessment and reporting on 12th grade student achievement as it relates to preparedness for postsecondary pursuits, such as college-credit course work, training for employment, and entrance into the military, as measured by an assessment consistent with that purpose;**
- 2. The working definition for preparedness shall be based on the conception of a high school graduate who does not require remediation in the subject being tested by NAEP in qualifying for college-level courses, training for employment, or entrance into the military;**
- 3. The Governing Board shall (a) begin by revising assessment frameworks and developing performance standards in reading and mathematics in a manner designed to enable such reporting of preparedness; and, subsequently, (b) conduct studies to obtain evidence to support the validity of statements about preparedness intended for reporting by NAEP; and**
- 4. The Governing Board shall determine which other subjects assessed by NAEP should be designated to report on preparedness and the sequence and timing for developing associated assessment frameworks and performance standards.**