

**National Assessment Governing Board
Executive Committee**

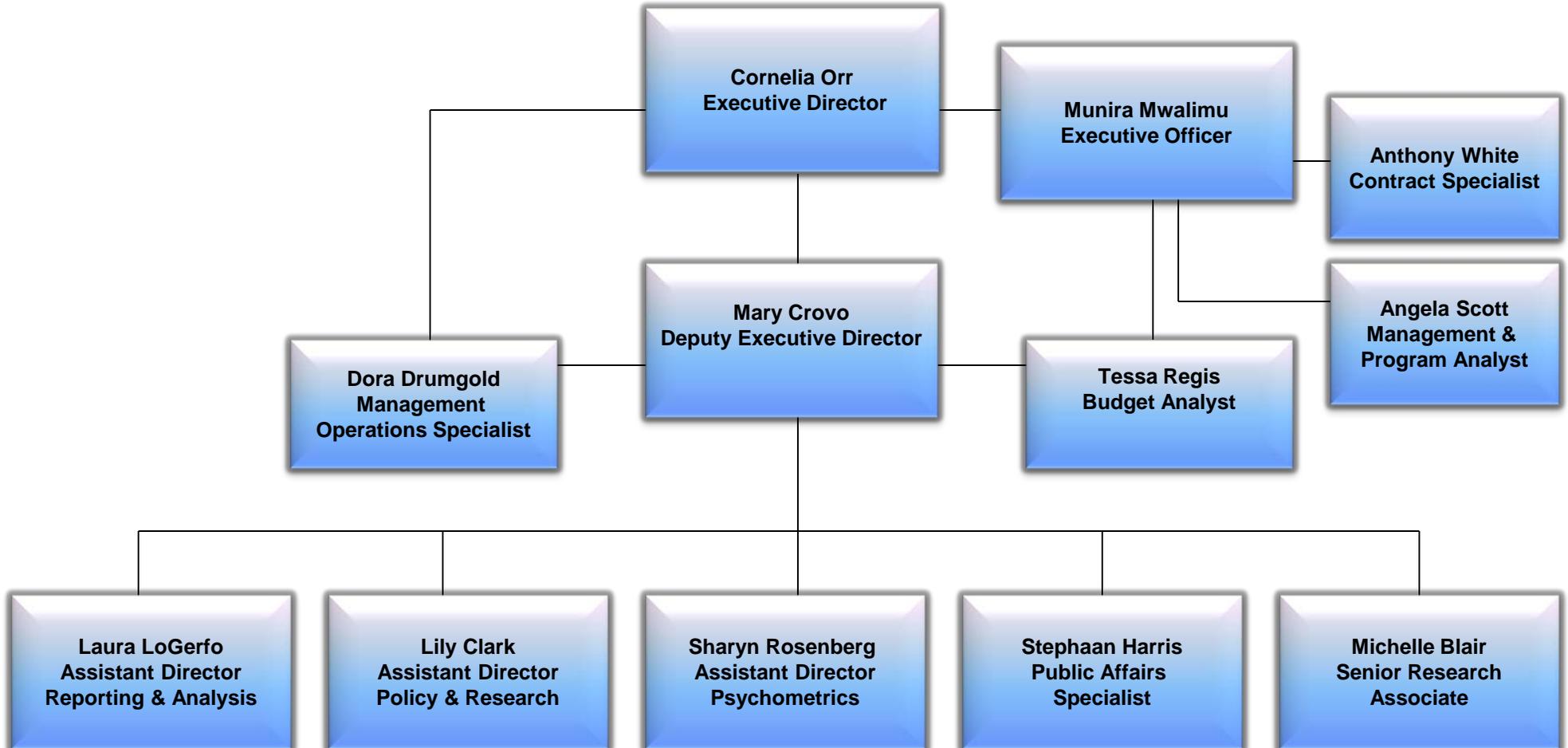
**November 20, 2014
4:30-6:00 pm**

AGENDA

4:30 – 4:35 pm	Welcome, Introductions, Comments, and Agenda <i>Terry Mazany, Chair</i>	
4:35 – 4:40 pm	Updates: Governing Board Staffing 2015 Budget Appropriation Status NAEP Reauthorization Status <i>Cornelia Orr</i>	Attachment A Attachment B Attachment C
4:40 – 5:00 pm	Discussion: Strategic Thinking about NAEP & NAGB Mission and Values Policy Drivers/Initiatives Budget Constraints <i>Terry Mazany</i>	
Closed Session 5:00 – 6:00 pm	Closed Session: NAEP Schedule of Assessments & Budget <i>Cornelia Orr, NAGB</i> <i>Peggy Carr, NCES</i>	
6:00 pm	Adjourn	



Staff Organization



NAEP and Governing Board Budgets and Appropriation for FY 2015

Congress has not passed an education appropriation bill for FY 2015, which would include funding for NAEP and the Governing Board, nor an appropriation bill for any agency.

- The President's FY 2015 budget request includes \$124,616,000 for NAEP and \$7,705,000 for the Governing Board. The FY 2014 funding level for NAEP was \$132 million; for the Governing Board it was \$8.235 million.
- On September 19, 2014, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), a temporary measure to provide agencies with interim spending authority covering the period from October 1 through December 11, 2014.
- The temporary spending authority under the CR is at the FY 2014 level less a decrement of 0.0554%. On an annualized basis, the decrements under the CR are about \$17,700 for NAEP and about \$4,500 for the Governing Board.

On June 10, 2014, prior to the CR passed by Congress in September, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies marked up its bill for FY 2015.

- It provides the same levels for NAEP and the Governing Board as the President's FY 2015 request.
- In addition, the Subcommittee report on the bill includes the following:

The Committee is aware that increased NAEP contract costs and the 2013 sequester led to decisions in 2013 to postpone indefinitely implementation of assessments for 4th and 12th grade students in United States History, Civics and Geography and other assessments. A new assessment in Technology and Engineering literacy continues to move forward. Previous assessments conducted by the National Assessment Governing Board indicate that fewer than one in four 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students at all grade levels is proficient in United States History. Reducing the frequency of assessments in this area will limit the ability of Congress to track the progress of the American education system in addressing this important problem. The Committee therefore requests that the National Assessment Governing Board report within 30 days of enactment of this act on the costs of implementing its current assessment schedule and the costs of and timeline for implementing assessments in 4th and 12th grade History, Civics and Geography.

As of October 21, 2014, the bill had not been voted on by the Full Senate Appropriations Committee and no action had been taken in the House on the FY 2015 appropriation for education.

NAEP Reauthorization Update

For several months, Governing Board staff have been following the progress of the NAEP/NAGB/IES reauthorization bill (H.R. 4366—*Strengthening Education through Research Act*. Title III of the bill contains amendments to the current *National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act*.). This section of the law identifies key aspects of the Governing Board's work in relation to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), as well as the work within the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to implement NAEP.

Passage in the House of Representatives

On April 9, 2014, a NAEP/NAGB/IES reauthorization bill (H.R. 4366—*Strengthening Education through Research Act*) passed unanimously in the Education and Workforce Committee of the House of Representatives. It passed the House by voice vote on May 8, 2014.

Progress in the Senate

On June 17, 2014, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) passed a similar measure. The Senate bill made changes to HR 4366. The changes had been negotiated with the House to eliminate the need for a conference committee to resolve differences, with the goal of facilitating speedy passage before the end of this Congress. However, it is notable that there were no changes in the provisions affecting NAEP and the Governing Board (N.B., there were, however, minor adjustments to the annual authorization of appropriations, providing for increases at a faster pace in the first few years).

As of October 21, 2014, this bill had not yet been brought to the Senate floor for a vote.

Next Steps

The next steps toward enactment are passage on the Senate floor, a final vote in the House, and signing by the President.

Proposed Revisions to the NAEP Law

A track changes version of the current NAEP legislation which shows the amendments under H.R. 4366, with a few explanatory comments, is available upon request. Also available are copies of letters from former Board Chair David Driscoll to the House of Representatives Education and the Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline and the Senate HELP Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, with comments on the bills that had been invited by the respective Committees.

Bill Provisions Affecting NAEP and the Governing Board

The following is a short summary of provisions in the House and Senate bills that affect the work of the Governing Board on NAEP. The overriding thrust of the proposed amendments is to

clarify the respective roles of the Board and NCES, aligning the bill text with 25+ years of actual practice.

- The bill clarifies the Board’s authority to release NAEP reports, nominate candidates for Board vacancies, and set the schedule of assessments. It also includes a new authority: providing input to the IES Director on the annual NAEP budget requests for submission to the Secretary.
- The bill changes "[The Assessment Board shall] formulate policy guidelines [for NAEP]" to "[The Assessment Board shall] oversee and set policies [for NAEP]" in the Board's establishment clause in Section 302(a) of the bill.
- It changes "The [NCES Commissioner] shall, with the advice of the Assessment Board...carry out...[NAEP]" in the NCES section of the bill to "The [NCES Commissioner] shall, in a manner consistent with accepted professional standards and the policies set forth by the Assessment Board...carry out...[NAEP]". The phrase “in a manner consistent with...accepted professional standards” is also added to the Board’s establishment clause in Section 302(a).
- The bill includes language that gives the Commissioner the final word on the content of NAEP reports, but requires the Commissioner in doing so to take into account policy set by the Board.
- The bill thus maintains and, in some ways, strengthens the checks and balances that were a part of the original conception of the NAEP governance structure.
- The authorization of appropriations is for six years and increases incrementally from \$132,000,000 for NAEP for FY 2015 to \$144,168,376 for FY 2020. In the past, the authorization of appropriations has been a certain amount in the first year and "such sums as required" after—typically for five years rather than the six years under these amendments. Although this may suggest congressional policy as an increasing appropriation level for NAEP, it is important to note that these levels are not binding on the appropriations committees.
- The authorization level for the Board also is on an increasing trajectory over this period—from \$8,235,000 in FY 2015 to \$8,994,141 in FY 2020.
- An incremental upward funding trajectory is also the case for Title I (i.e., for IES and its centers) and Title II (i.e., for educational technical assistance) of this bill.