

## **Summary of the National Assessment Governing Board’s Development of the Strategic Vision Draft —November 2016—**

The National Assessment Governing Board began its Strategic Planning Initiative (Initiative) in 2014 by developing a framework to set priorities and goals. The Strategic Planning Framework development was led by the Executive Committee and was unanimously approved by the Board on August 8, 2015, concluding Phase I of the Initiative. At the August 2015 meeting, the Board met in small cross-committee groups to develop an initial list of activities that could be accomplished within five years to achieve the priorities specified in the Strategic Planning Framework. These conversations formed the basis for the first draft of the Strategic Plan.<sup>1</sup>

Upon approval of the Framework, Chair Mazany asked Vice Chair Lucille Davy to lead Phase II of the Initiative to guide the Board’s development of its Strategic Plan. At the Board’s November 2015 meeting, Vice Chair Davy led the Governing Board in its first plenary discussion of the draft Strategic Plan.

The Board’s plan for Phase II included soliciting feedback from external education stakeholders to inform the Strategic Plan. The Board hired a consultant, Jim Kohlmoos, to conduct conversations with 22 individuals who are respected education leaders, familiar with NAEP, and represent a diverse range of perspectives to generate ideas for the Strategic Plan. In addition, the staff discussed the draft Strategic Plan priorities and activities with the Board’s joint Policy Task Force with the Council of Chief State School Officers, representing state assessment experts. The external feedback was prepared for the Board’s consideration at its March 2016 meeting and was discussed in a plenary session with Mr. Kohlmoos.<sup>2</sup>

At the May 2016 meeting, the Governing Board engaged in a detailed discussion of the revised draft Strategic Plan. The Board met first in small, cross-committee groups and then as the full Board in a plenary session. What emerged from the May 2016 meeting was a call for a significantly revised strategic document that would focus purely on the Board’s work and be an inspiring, succinct, and effective public communications tool. Chair Mazany tasked the Executive Committee to revise the draft for discussion at the August 2016 Board meeting. The Executive Committee members were highly engaged in its June and July teleconference meetings. As a result, the May 2016 draft transformed into the now-called “Strategic Vision” draft. In addition to the Executive Committee’s work, the draft Strategic Vision also went through numerous rounds of Board staff review and incorporated feedback from NCES.

At the August 2016 Board meeting, the Board discussed the Strategic Vision in small cross-committee groups and then as the full Board in a plenary session. In its discussions, the Governing Board affirmed its desire to impact student achievement through its activities in the Strategic Vision. The Board also made recommendations to refine the draft and indicated readiness for the Board to take action on the Strategic Vision at the November 2016 meeting.<sup>3</sup> Following the August meeting, the Executive Committee considered final changes to the Strategic Vision to reflect the Board’s discussions.

**ACTION: The proposed Strategic Vision is attached for Executive Committee and full Board action at the November 2016 meeting.**

*Upon approval, the Board will conclude Phase II of the Initiative. Phase III—the final stage—is to implement the Strategic Vision.*

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<sup>1</sup>An overview of the Strategic Planning Initiative and the Strategic Planning Framework are available here: <https://www.nagb.org/content/members/assets/documents/meetings/board-meetings/2015/2015-11/15-strategic-planning-initiative-update.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> A summary of the feedback provided for the March 2016 meeting is available here: <https://www.nagb.org/content/members/assets/documents/meetings/board-meetings/2016/2016-03/10-strategic-planning-initiative.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the August 2016 meeting minutes included in the November 2016 Board materials for the discussion summary.



Draft for Board Action - November 2016

## National Assessment Governing Board's **Strategic Vision**

**The Nation's Report Card, also known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), was developed in 1969 to answer the important question: "How are our nation's students doing?" The National Assessment Governing Board established this Strategic Vision to not only answer the first question, but also to expand NAEP's impact by addressing a second question: "How can NAEP provide information about how our students are doing in the most innovative, informative, and impactful ways?"**

Congress created the independent, bipartisan Governing Board in 1988 to set policy guidelines for The Nation's Report Card, which is the largest nationally representative, continuing evaluation of the condition of education in the United States. The Governing Board identifies NAEP subjects to be tested, determines the content and achievement levels for each assessment, approves all test questions, and takes steps to improve the form, reporting, and use of results.

The Governing Board partners with the National Center for Education Statistics, which administers the NAEP program, to inform a wide range of stakeholders—including policymakers, educators, researchers, business leaders, the media, and the general public—about what America's students know and can do in various subject areas, and compare achievement data over time and among student demographic groups. This allows the nation to understand where more work must be done to improve learning among all students.

The Governing Board fulfills its statutory mission by continuously reviewing and revising its policies and practices to ensure The Nation's Report Card measures and reports meaningful information to the public.

The educational landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> century demands increased academic ambition, greater technological sophistication, improved civic participation, and expanded global perspectives for all students. In this time of rapid and accelerating change, it is essential for The Nation's Report Card to support innovation and address the need to improve student achievement, while maintaining its timeless promise to serve as the constant and unassailable measure of student achievement for our nation. To increase the value of The Nation's Report Card as a resource to impact student achievement, the Governing Board adopted this Strategic Vision with a dual focus on innovating to enhance NAEP's form and content and informing stakeholders to expand NAEP's dissemination and use.



## Inform

The National Assessment Governing Board will promote The Nation's Report Card's wealth of information to facilitate the awareness and uses of NAEP in appropriate, timely, new, and meaningful ways. Examples of NAEP resources include: results; trends; test questions and tasks; studies; measurement innovations; frameworks that specify the content and design of NAEP assessments; and contextual variables about student demographics and educational experiences collected from students, teachers, and schools. The Governing Board will:

- Strengthen and expand partnerships by broadening stakeholders' awareness of NAEP and facilitating their use of NAEP resources.
- Increase opportunities to connect NAEP to administrative data and state, national, and international student assessments.
- Expand the availability, utility, and use of NAEP resources, in part by creating new resources to inform education policy and practice.
- Promote sustained dissemination and use of NAEP information beyond Report Card releases with consideration for multiple audiences and ever-changing multi-media technologies.



## Innovate

The National Assessment Governing Board will revise the design, form, and content of The Nation's Report Card using advances in technology to keep NAEP at the forefront of measuring and reporting student achievement. The Governing Board will:

- Develop new approaches to update NAEP subject area frameworks to support the Board's responsibility to measure evolving expectations for students, while maintaining rigorous methods that support reporting student achievement trends.
- Continue improving the content, analysis, and reporting of NAEP contextual variables by considering the questions' relevance, sensitivity, and potential to provide meaningful context and insights for policy and practice.
- Research policy and technical implications related to the future of NAEP Long-Term Trend assessments in reading and mathematics.
- Research assessments used in other countries to identify new possibilities to innovate the content, design, and reporting of NAEP.
- Develop policy approaches to revise the NAEP assessment subjects and schedule based on the nation's evolving needs, the Board's priorities, and NAEP funding.
- Develop new approaches to measure the complex skills required for transition to postsecondary education and career.

***This Strategic Vision will focus the work of the Governing Board through the year 2020. By pursuing these priorities, the Governing Board will ensure that The Nation's Report Card provides the country with valuable data that measure and contribute to the improvement of student progress in achieving important knowledge and skills necessary for success as citizens in our democratic society.***