
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: NAGB: 1) COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS, DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY'S ACTION AT 6/8 MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND 2) MATERIALS FOR 6/28 NAGB MEETING IN HOUSTON
DATE 6/27/01
CC: FILE

COSDAM Meeting in Washington

Your work committee, the Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology (COSDAM), met in Washington, DC, on June 8 and I attended the meeting on your behalf. The following matters were discussed:

1. Roy Truby shared with COSDAM that he had received a letter that week indicating that the nominations process would be left to the Board.
2. NCES staff presented an overview of design principles for an annual NAEP and a summary of major NAEP design issues.
3. COSDAM reviewed and approved changes to the following policies (NOTE: The rationale for each policy change is presented under the numbered policy tabs in your meeting book.):

Policy on Block/Booklet Structure: A common block/booklet structure will be used starting with 2002 assessments to enable more than one subject to be tested in the same session. The tests will be spiraled together and administered during the same sessions.

Policy on Field Testing: Field testing will start in 2002 in order to precalibrate those test items that have already been pilot tested so that they may be used on future tests and to set new achievement levels in advance. This field data will not be publicly released or used to set estimates of performance. Field tests will incorporate OMB's required changes for race/ethnicity classifications.

Policy on Increasing Precision: Additional items at the lower regions of scaling for grades 4 and 8 math and reading will be added to the NAEP starting in 2003. The NAEP may need to oversample students in some subgroups (race, economic class) in order to increase measurement precision.

Policy on Reporting: Reading and math scores will be released within six months of testing beginning in 2003, primarily via a summary report for the general public. Collection on race and ethnicity will be revised in accordance with OMB rules, which will allow respondents to choose more than one category.

Policy on NAEP Schedule Revision: In order to free up funds for test items to be developed in math and reading in 2001 so as to meet the annual testing requirements of “No Child Left Behind,” assuming it passes, NAGB will postpone the Civics assessment scheduled for 2003 until 2005. (NOTE: The resolution was passed under the guise of it advancing technical, time-saving and cost-saving objectives. It was discussed in closed session that it is largely necessary due to a lack of funds to cover operations and this was the largest cost-saving option. Mark Musick stated that he was opposed to the resolution if it was necessary simply because a deficit appropriation would not be made, but that he could support it if it could be supported for technical reasons.)

4. COSDAM also recommended the following two resolutions for approval by NAGB:

Non-release of 2000 math questions: NAEP will not release the 2000 fourth and eighth grade math questions.

Provide resources to states for implementation: NAEP should provide funding for a full-time coordinator to be hired by each state or jurisdiction to oversee the implementation of the NAEP.

During executive session, Peggy Carr of NCES presented the following cost estimates for the total NAEP annual assessment budget (NOTE: These numbers are to be treated as confidential. I was not allowed to keep the handout with all of the details and the numbers on it.):

NAEP	\$36,000,000
NAGB Recommendations	7,525,000
“No Child Left Behind”	<u>69,200,000*</u>
TOTAL	\$112,725,000

NAGB Meeting in Houston

The Board will basically ratify the work of COSDAM (policies and resolutions) and NCES staff will also present the overview of design principles for an annual NAEP and a summary of major NAEP design issues.