



National Assessment Governing Board Resolution on the Imperative for Increased NAEP Funding

Whereas, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)—also known as The Nation’s Report Card—is authorized by Congress and is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation’s elementary and secondary students know and can do;

Whereas, since 1969, NAEP has been the country’s foremost resource for measuring student progress and identifying differences in student achievement across various student subgroups;

Whereas, in a time of ever-changing state standards and assessments, the need for NAEP as the only national measure to compare student achievement across states and select large urban districts is greater than ever;

Whereas, the overwhelming, voluntary participation of states and select urban districts in non-mandatory NAEP assessments is a testament to the usefulness of and demand for NAEP results;

Whereas, the nation relies on NAEP to monitor whether students are prepared with the academic rigor, technological skills, critical thinking, and global perspectives necessary to meet the demands of the twenty-first century through assessments in a broad range of subjects;

Whereas, NAEP must innovate to keep pace with the changing world of education and technology by transitioning to digital-based assessments (DBA) which provide new ways to measure student achievement that are more precise, more engaging, and better capture a wider range of knowledge and skills than can typically be measured with paper-and pencil tests;

Whereas, it is of paramount importance to invest in technology to maintain stringent protections to ensure consistent and fair assessment conditions with DBA by providing uniform digital devices and uninterrupted, secure connectivity in the near-term;

Whereas, without additional resources to support the costly but necessary transition to DBA while simultaneously maintaining its ability to report trends, NAEP will be dramatically compromised in its ability to fulfill its mission as it will be reduced to measuring a narrower range of subjects, testing fewer grade levels, and administering fewer assessments at the state level;

Therefore, the National Assessment Governing Board resolves that timely and significant increases of funds are necessary to ensure that The Nation’s Report Card continues to provide policymakers, parents, principals, teachers, and researchers with the nation’s only continuous and objective measure of student progress in a wide range of subjects and grades at the national, state, and select large urban district levels, capturing the full scope of academic rigor, technological proficiency, critical thinking, and global perspectives necessary for success in the twenty-first century.