

February 26, 2007

Darvin Winick
Chair
National Assessment Governing Board
800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

Mark Schneider
Commissioner
National Center on Education Statistics
1990 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Chairman Winick and Commissioner Schneider:

On behalf of the Council of Chief State School Officers' (CCSSO) Education Information Management Advisory Consortium (EIMAC), I would like to take this opportunity to bring forward two critical issues involving states and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

At a recent meeting of the state testing directors jointly sponsored by CCSSO and the National Center on Education Statistics (NCES), the critical issues of NAEP exclusion rates and breaking trend on the 2009 reading assessments were discussed at length. NAEP's increased exposure in the media and with policymakers has created more pressure on states to "follow the leader." Given the microscope that states are placed under in regards to NAEP, these topics are important to our membership. While all states are not in agreement on how NAEP should proceed, it is critical that the state voice is at the table for these discussions. Of particular concern are any decisions or policies around exclusion rates. This is an issue where it will be perceived that states either got it "right" or "wrong" and it is critical that states are involved in the discussions of how to determine a correct exclusion rate.

I strongly encourage the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) and NCES to use EIMAC and its Assessment Task Force (funded by NCES) as sounding boards for these issues. States are open to working with you and look forward to future opportunities. The next EIMAC meeting is scheduled for early May. We would be happy to add these issues as agenda items.

I look forward to talking with you further please. Feel free to contact me at 317-232-9050 or wbruce@doe.state.in.us.

Sincerely,

Wesley Bruce
Indiana
EIMAC Chair

cc: Rick Melmer
Gene Wilhoit
Charles Smith
Peggy Carr