

May 15, 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:

At the recent meeting of the Education Information Management Advisory Consortium (EIMAC) the National Center on Education Statistics presented three options for trend reporting in conjunction with the 2009 reading framework. EIMAC discussed the options in detail and advocates “overlapping trend lines” as the option for reporting the NAEP Reading Trend Line in 2009. Overlapping trend lines has been described as an approach in which the assessment aligned to the current framework (current) and the assessment aligned to the 2009 framework (new) will be administered to two independent samples in 2009 for grades 4 and 8 nationally and for all jurisdictions. To help assure representativeness, each jurisdiction’s sample will be split into two equivalent samples.

Starting in 2009 the preservation of trend lines is necessitated by the adoption of a new reading framework accompanied by all new test items and new achievement levels. A shift of this magnitude implies that the new assessment will measure a different construct than the old assessment. Using overlapping trend lines will permit comparisons of results from 1992-2009 on the current scale, and comparison of results from 2009 forward on the new scale. Scores from the 2009 assessment will be available for both trend lines. We recommend that the new score scale be distinct from the old score scale to minimize confusion and that the data be displayed with this consideration in mind.

As compared to other options, overlapping trend lines is more efficient, cost effective, and accurate in describing the performance of students with respect to the new frameworks. Overlapping trend lines, as compared to other options, results in enhanced construct validity; however, the methodology may have non-trivial impact on the

precision of estimates for jurisdictions and student groups. We feel confident that these limitations will be communicated appropriately.

The states appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue and look forward to future work between our respective organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Siskind". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'S'. To the right of the signature is a vertical red line.

Wes Bruce
Indiana
EIMAC Chair

Theresa Siskind
South Carolina
Assessment Subcommittee Chair