

November 24, 2020

Dear Chief:

In August, I reached out to you regarding the implementation of the 2021 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to increase and affect educational systems across the country, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Commissioner, with support of the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), has decided to postpone the NAEP 2021 assessments.

Challenges such as variable instructional models, health and safety concerns, and restrictions on access to schools are expected to reduce NAEP's ability to validly, reliably, and safely collect and report NAEP data in 2021. The postponement will move mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8 to 2022.

However, NCES continues to believe the exploration of educational experiences within the context of COVID-19 might still be valuable to states and districts for 2021. NCES developed questions related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusion on the school and teacher questionnaires, typically delivered with the NAEP assessments, and is considering delivering the NAEP questionnaires to teachers and administrators.

NCES appreciates the ongoing support and effort of states, districts, and schools as we continued working toward a 2021 assessment. We will keep your Assessment Director and NAEP State Coordinator apprised of updates on plans for the 2022 assessments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [peggy.carr@ed.gov](mailto:peggy.carr@ed.gov) or Gina Broxterman at [gina.broxterman@ed.gov](mailto:gina.broxterman@ed.gov).

Sincerely,



Peggy Carr, Ph.D.  
Associate Commissioner  
Assessment Division  
National Center for Education Statistics