

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer,
National Assessment Governing Board,
Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW,
Washington, DC, 20002-4233,
Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
National Assessment Governing Board
is established under section 412 of the
National Education Statistics Act of
1994 (Title IV of the Improving
America's Schools Act of 1994) (Public
Law 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate
policy guidelines for the National
Assessment of Educational Progress.
The Board is responsible for selecting
subject areas to be assessed, developing
assessment objectives, identifying
appropriate achievement goals for each
grade and subject tested, and
establishing standards and procedures
for interstate and national comparisons.
Under Public Law 105-78, the National
Assessment Governing Board is granted
exclusive authority over developing
Voluntary National Tests pursuant to
contract number RJ97153001 and is
required to review within 90 days (i.e.,
by February 11, 1998) and modify the
contract to the extent the Board
determines necessary; if the contract
cannot be modified to the extent the
Board determines necessary, the
contract shall be terminated, and a new
contract negotiated.

On January 9, 1998 the National
Assessment Governing Board's Special
Committee to Review the Voluntary
National Tests Development Contract
will hold a closed meeting by
teleconference. The purpose of the
meeting is for the NAGB Special
Committee to review the Test
Development Contract, to formulate its
recommendations to the NAGB for
modification or termination and
recompetition of the Development
Contract for the Voluntary National
Tests. This information relates to the
source selection criteria by which
government contracts may be modified
or awarded. Not only would the
disclosure of such data implicate
proscriptions set forth in the Federal
Acquisition Regulations, but also such
disclosure would significantly frustrate
a proposed agency action. Specifically,
disclosure of the Subcommittee's
discussion prematurely, including
contract specifications and government
cost estimates, could affect private
decisions made by the contractor which
might damage the financial interests of
the government as a whole, by, for
example, increasing the costs to the
government, and might make it
impossible for the two sides to reach

agreement. Such matters are protected
by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of
Title 5 U.S.C.

A summary of the activities of this
closed meeting and other related
matters, which are informative to the
public and consistent with the policy of
the Section 5 U.S.C. 552b, will be
available to the public within 14 days
after the meeting. Records are kept of all
Board proceedings and are available for
public inspection at the U.S.

Department of Education, National
Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825,
800 North Capitol Street, NW,
Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00
p.m.

Roy Truby,

*Executive Director, National Assessment
Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-34004 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**National Assessment Governing Board
Meeting**

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The National Assessment
Governing Board (NAGB), US
Department of Education, is announcing
two public hearings on the Voluntary
National Tests (VNT). These hearings
are being conducted pursuant to Public
Law 105-78, which gives NAGB
"exclusive authority over all policies,
direction, and guidelines for developing
voluntary national tests."

Public and private parties and
organizations with an interest in the
Voluntary National Tests for 4th grade
reading and 8th grade mathematics are
invited to present written and oral
testimony. The purpose of the hearings
is to gather recommendations on the test
specifications or blueprint for the
proposed VNT based on the National
Assessment of Educational Progress
(NAEP) in 4th grade reading and 8th
grade mathematics. The proposed tests
will be individualized versions of
NAEP, and the Board intends to ensure
that they are fully consistent with
NAEP's content and performance
standards. In carrying out its
responsibilities, the Board plans to
consult widely and wishes to receive a
broad range of input and views. We
encourage your participation. Results of
the hearings are particularly important
as they will provide broad public input
to the Governing Board for on
specifications for the Voluntary
National Tests.

DATES: The dates of the public hearings
have been set as follows:

- January 21, 1998 in Washington,
DC.

- January 27, 1998 in Chicago, IL.
On each day, the reading hearing will
begin at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 12:00
noon, and the mathematics hearing will
begin at 1:30 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00
p.m. You are invited to present either
oral and/or written testimony. Oral
presentations should not exceed five
minutes. Written testimony should be
mailed to the address below no later
than January 31, 1998: Aspen Systems
Corporation, 2277 Research Boulevard,
Mail Stop 4-D, Rockville, Maryland
20850, Attn: Munira Mwalimu.

Please include your name, address,
and any organization you may
represent. All testimony will become
part of the public record and will be
considered by the Governing Board in
deciding on specifications for the
proposed national tests, which will be
designed to show whether individual
students can meet NAEP standards for
basic, proficient, or advanced
performance. Presenters may also
register online at www.nagb.org or by
calling (800) 638-2785 between 9 a.m.
and 5 p.m. EST.

Locations:

January 21

The Capital Hilton, 16th and K Streets
NW, Washington, DC 2036, (202) 393-
1000.

January 27

Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S.
Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605,
(312) 922-4400.

Written Statements

Written statements may be submitted
for the public record in lieu of oral
testimony no later than January 31,
1998. These statements should be sent
directly to Aspen Systems (see
aforementioned address) in the
following format:

I. Issues and Questions Addressed:
Identify the issue(s) and question(s) to
which the testimony is directed. For
example, "Specifications for 4th grade
Voluntary National Test in reading."

II. Summary: Briefly summarize the
major points and recommendations
presented in the testimony.

III. Discussion: The narrative should
provide information, points of view and
recommendations that will enable the
Governing Board to consider all factors
relevant to the question(s) the testimony
addresses. Respondents are encouraged
to limit this section of their written
statements to ten (10) pages. The
discussions may be appended with
documents of any length providing
further explanation.

Hearings Objectives and Procedures

The National Assessment Governing Board seeks participation in the hearings from a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations to receive recommendations regarding the reading and mathematics specifications for the Voluntary National Tests at grade 4 in reading and grade 8 in mathematics. The schedule of speakers shall be such as to provide a broad spectrum of viewpoints and interests, while being contained to a practical amount of time. The goal of the hearings is to provide a medium for maximum input and guidance from the public to include teachers, principals, school board members, curriculum specialists, local school administrators, parents, and concerned citizens.

The Governing Board will provide a brief background to the hearings, with the majority of the time being devoted to presentations by scheduled speakers. To assist in appropriately scheduling speakers, testimony should include the following information:

- (1) Name, address, and telephone number of each person to appear.
- (2) Affiliation (if any).
- (3) A brief statement of the issues and/or concerns that will be addressed.
- (4) Whether a written statement will be submitted for the record.

Individuals who do not register in advance will be permitted to register and speak at the meeting in order of registration, if time permits. Speakers should plan to limit their total remarks to no more than five (5) minutes.

While it is anticipated that all persons desiring to do so will have an opportunity to speak, time limits may not allow this to occur. The Governing Board will make the final determination on the selection and scheduling of speakers.

However, all written statements presented at the hearings will be accepted and incorporated into the public record. Written statements received after January 31, 1998 will be accepted; however, inclusion in the public record cannot be guaranteed. Governing Board members will preside at each of the hearings. The proceedings will be audiotaped. On request, the hearings will be signed for the hearing-impaired, and a bilingual speaker (Spanish-English) can be made available on site.

Additional Information

Additional information on the Voluntary National Tests can be obtained at by contacting Mary Crovo, National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 825,

Washington, DC 20002-4233, Telephone: 202-357-6938 or NAGB's web site at www.nagb.org.

Steps After Hearing

The Governing Board will review and analyze all comments and opinions received in response to this announcement. Results of the testimony will be used by the National Assessment Governing Board to determine the specifications for the Voluntary National Tests in reading and mathematics. The Board plans to take action on the specifications in March 1998. A record of all the proceedings will be kept at the National Assessment Governing Board offices, 800 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20002, and will be available for public inspection.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 97-34005 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of Teleconference meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming teleconference meeting of Subject Area Committees 1 and Subject Area Committee #2 of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

DATES: January 8, and 9, 1998.

TIME: January 8, Subject Area Committee #1, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, (open); January 9, Subject Area Committee #2, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., (open).

LOCATION: National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

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On January 8 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the Subject Area Committee #1 of the National Assessment Governing Board will hold a teleconference meeting to discuss Committee and staff Voluntary National Tests reviews for reading. On January 9 between the hours of 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Subject Area Committee #2 will meet to discuss Committee and staff reviews of the Voluntary National Tests for math. Because these are teleconference meetings, facilities will be provided so the public will have access to the Committee's deliberations.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

[FR Doc. 97-34006 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of General Counsel; Preparation of Report to Congress on Price-Anderson Act

AGENCY: Office of General Counsel, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry concerning preparation of report to Congress on the Price-Anderson Act.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (the "Department" or "DOE") is