

Archived Information

Agenda Science Assessment Meeting

June 18-19, 2004
Boston, MA

Meeting Overview:

- The objective of the meeting is to positively influence the forthcoming K-12 state science assessments, including aligning them to state learning goals, and helping states learn how to effectively comply with NCLB;
- The meeting will provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion with three critical groups in science assessment: test developers, state assessment directors, and researchers; and
- The meeting will result in an action strategy on ways to help states implement quality science assessments that include a preliminary timeline, deliverables, activities and resources. The action strategy will include proceedings from the meeting, and a summary of the latest research in this area.

Agenda:

Friday, June 18, 2004

7:00 p.m.

***Turner Fisheries Restaurant
Westin Hotel
10 Huntington Ave., Boston
(617) 262-9600***

Welcome

Dr. Susan Sclafani
Assistant Secretary for Vocational
and Adult Education and Counselor
to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

9:30 p.m.

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Saturday, June 19, 2004

***Sheraton Hotel
39 Dalton Street, Boston
Hampton Room – 3rd Floor
North Tower
(617) 236-6148***

8:30 a.m.

Introductions and Charge to the Group

Dr. Susan Sclafani

Brief reports from participating state assessment directors on challenges of administering science assessments in response to NCLB

9:15 a.m.

What Science is Important to Assess?

Dr. Rodger Bybee

Biological Sciences Curriculum Study

Dr. Iannis Maioulis

Boston Museum of Science

9:45 a.m.

Discussion

How does a rigorous, high quality test that assesses all students look:

- In terms of content?
- In terms of cognitive demand?
- In terms of psychometric properties?
- In terms of "nearness" to instruction?

10:15 a.m.

Break

Saturday, June 19, 2004 [Continued]

10:30 a.m.

Presentation on New Approaches to Conducting Assessments in Science

Dr. Eva Baker
National Center for Research on Evaluation,
Standards and Student Testing
University of California Los Angeles

Dr. Richard Shavelson
Stanford University

Dr. Robert Sternberg
Yale University

11:00 a.m.

Discussion

- How can we incorporate new research in cognitive science into assessments?
- How can we look forward to the next generation of assessments that incorporate new technologies?

11:30 am

Brief presentations from the publishing companies on their challenges with science assessments

12:00 p.m.

Working Luncheon

12:45 p.m.

Alignment of Science Frameworks and Assessments

Dr. Darwin Winick
National Assessment Governing Board

1:00 p.m.

Break

Saturday, June 19, 2004 [Continued]

1:15 p.m.

Discussion
(Small groups)

What are the apparent obstacles and obvious next steps that need to be taken to prepare states and test developers to meet the demands of science assessment under NCLB? What innovations in assessment practices are possible that would improve the quality of the assessments? In addition:

- Question for the testing companies:
 - What should states do to improve their RFP processes and the implementation of testing procedures?

- Question for the state assessment directors:
 - What should testing companies do to improve their test development procedures, the implementation of testing procedures, and analysis of testing results?

- Questions for the researchers and scientists:
 - What do we know from research about what would make for better assessments in science, but is not typically a part of testing programs?
 - In what areas or on what questions do we need more research?

2:00 p.m.

Break

2:15 p.m.

Summary of the Small Group Discussions

Develop Strategy for Supporting States in Implementing Strong Science Assessments

Identify Next Steps

4:00 pm

Adjournment