

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Jean A. Webb,*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 99-12869 Filed 5-8-99; 1:22 p.m.]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Meeting****AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:**

Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m. Friday, June 25, 1999.**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference.**STATUS:** Closed.**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Surveillance Matters.**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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[FR Doc. 99-12870 Filed 5-18-99; 1:22 pm]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Meeting****TIME AND DATE:** 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 28, 1999.**PLACE:** 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference Room.**STATUS:** Closed.**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

Adjudicatory Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Jean A. Webb,*Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 99-12871 Filed 5-18-99; 1:22 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**National Assessment Governing Board****AGENCY:** National Assessment Governing Board; Department of Education.**ACTION:** Notice of request for comments.**SUMMARY:** The National Assessment Governing Board requests public comment on two draft documents it has prepared for submission to Congress and the President. The first document, required under section 305(c)(1) of the FY 1999 Omnibus Budget Act (the Act),

provides a suggested statement of the purpose, intended use, definition of the term "voluntary," and the means of reporting results for the proposed voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics. The second document, entitled "National Assessment of Educational Progress: Design 2000-2010," describes how improvements in the National Assessment of Educational Progress will be implemented during the 2000-2010 period. Interested individuals and organizations are invited to provide written comments to the Governing Board.

Written Comments: Written comments must be received by June 9, 1999 at the following address: Mark D. Musick, Chairman (Attention: Ray Fields), National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20002-4233.

Written comments also may be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to Ray_Fields@ED.GOV by June 9, 1999. Comments sent by e-mail must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Inclusion in the public record cannot be guaranteed for written statements, whether sent by mail or electronically, received after June 9, 1999.

Public Record: A record of comments received in response to this notice will be available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, in Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20002.

The Voluntary National Test: Purpose, Intended Use, Definition of Voluntary and Reporting*Background**Purpose*

The purpose of this report is to fulfill one of the requirements of the FY 1999 appropriation act for the Department of Education (the Act). Specifically, with respect to the proposed voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics, the Act requires the National Assessment Governing Board to

* * * determine and clearly articulate the purpose and intended use of any proposed federally sponsored national test. Such report shall also include—(A) a definition of the meaning of the term "voluntary" in regards to the administration of any national test; and (B) a description of the achievement levels and reporting methods to be used in grading any national test.

This report addresses the four required areas: purpose, intended use,

definition of "voluntary," and reporting. Although the legislation states that the Governing Board shall "determine" these matters, the Governing Board recognizes that this report is advisory to Congress and the President. Any final determination on these matters will be made in legislation enacted by Congress and signed by the President.

The Act contains other provisions related to the voluntary national test. One provision amends the General Education Provisions Act, creating a new section 447, prohibiting pilot testing and field testing of any federally sponsored national test unless specifically authorized in enacted legislation. However, another provision permits the development of voluntary national tests, giving the National Assessment Governing Board exclusive authority for such test development.

In order to carry out the congressional assignment to prepare this report, the Governing Board had to envision a situation in which there was authority to conduct voluntary national tests, while recognizing that the Act prohibits such tests at this time. Further, the Governing Board had to envision how national testing could work, given that schools in the United States are governed by states, localities and non-public authorities. The Governing Board attempted to answer the question: If there are to be voluntary national tests, what is a feasible, coherent plan that would be beneficial to parents, students, and teachers? Thus, while not advocating for or against the voluntary national test initiative, the Governing Board interprets the congressional assignment to be to present a sound and logical case for the potential purpose and use of the voluntary national tests.

The Act sets September 30, 1999 as the deadline for submitting this report to Congress and the President. However, to assist Congress and the President in deliberating on the future of the voluntary national test, help promote a timely decision, and avoid a full year's delay in pilot testing should Congress and the President decide to proceed with the project, the Governing Board is submitting its report in June.

Report Preparation Process

In November 1998, the Governing Board established a special ad hoc committee to assist in drafting the report. The committee was composed of both veteran and new Board members. Chaired by Michael Nettles, the committee included Wilmer Cody, Thomas Fisher, Michael Guerra, Nancy Kopp, Debra Paulson, Diane Ravitch, and John Stevens.