



FOR RELEASE
November 21, 1997

Contact: David Thomas
(202) 401-1579

**RILEY APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS TO
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD**

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley has announced the appointment of two new members of the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB).

New members appointed to three-year terms ending September 30, 2000 are:

- o Lynn Marmer, Cincinnati school board president and attorney, Dinsmore & Shohl;
and,
- o Jo Ann Pottorff, state representative, Kansas Legislature.

"Members of the National Assessment Governing Board provide the guidance and leadership our schools need to ensure that *all* students learn to high standards," Riley said.

"Determining what students know and should be able to do at key points in their k-12 education is an important responsibility. The people appointed to NAGB have the experience, knowledge, and the insight to develop and design future assessments for our nation's students."

The 25-member board formulates policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students should know and can do in various subjects.

The board is involved in a number of activities, including:

- o selecting the subjects to be tested;
- o identifying assessment objectives for each age and grade tested;
- o ensuring that all items selected for use in the assessment are free from racial, cultural, gender or regional bias; and,
- o identifying appropriate achievement goals.

--more--

The secretary appoints members from nominees in categories prescribed by law. The board must include governors or former governors, state legislators, educators, testing experts and curriculum specialists, as well as business and industry representatives, parents and persons representing the general public.

###



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
10:06 a.m. Saturday, November 22, 1997

Contact: David Thomas
(202) 401-1579

**PRESIDENT CLINTON ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF DIANE RAVITCH TO
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD**

President Clinton today announced that U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley appointed Diane Ravitch to the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). Ravitch is a Senior Research Scholar at New York University and Senior Fellow in Governmental Studies at the Brookings Institution.

Riley yesterday appointed Lynn Marmer, an attorney and Cincinnati school board president, and JoAnn Pottorff, a Kansas state representative, to fill additional NAGB vacancies. All three new members were appointed to serve three-year terms, ending September 30, 2000.

The 25-member board formulates policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students should know and can do in various subjects.

The board is involved in a number of activities, including:

- o selecting the subjects to be tested;
- o identifying assessment objectives for each age and grade tested;
- o ensuring that all items selected for use in the assessment are free from racial, cultural, gender or regional bias; and,
- o identifying appropriate achievement goals.

The secretary appoints members from nominees in categories prescribed by law. The board must include governors or former governors, state legislators, educators, testing experts and curriculum specialists, as well as business and industry representatives, parents and persons representing the general public.

###

INDEPENDENT BOARD ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPING NATIONAL TESTS

November 21, 1997

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every state should adopt high national standards, and . . . every state should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met.

President Bill Clinton
1997 State of the Union Address

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton today commended the bipartisan, independent National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) for its plan to develop and pilot the new voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. The President also announced new appointments to the Board, including Diane Ravitch, former Assistant Secretary of Education in the Bush Administration and a strong supporter of national standards and tests.

NAGB Assumes Control for National Tests. As proposed by the President, the recently enacted Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Bill places the bipartisan, independent NAGB in complete control of further work in developing the voluntary national tests. NAGB currently oversees the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a sample test of core subjects that tracks the progress of the nation as a whole and of 43 participating states, but does not provide individual student, school, or district level results.

The new national tests will be modeled on the NAEP content frameworks in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics, but unlike NAEP, will provide results for individual students. The NAEP standards reflect a national consensus of what students should know and be able to do when they reach these crucial stages of learning.

Under the legislation, NAGB is now responsible for formulating policy for the voluntary national tests, just as it does for NAEP. The law charges NAGB with reviewing and modifying, if necessary, the contract to develop the tests. NAGB also can review, modify, and approve test specifications. This week NAGB formally assumed control over the tests and adopted a detailed plan and timeline for test development.

New Appointment Underscores Bipartisan Commitment to National Tests. The President announced Secretary Riley's appointment of three new NAGB members, including Diane Ravitch, a long-time supporter of national standards and tests. Ravitch, former Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement under the Bush Administration, supported the President's proposal to ensure independence of the national tests by giving control to NAGB.

Work Will Proceed in Key Areas of Test Development. Under its newly approved plan, NAGB will begin this month to establish specifications for the national tests to ensure that the tests are based on the same content in NAEP. The board hopes to approve specifications in March 1998. Test items will then be developed for and approved by NAGB based on those specifications. Approved items will be used to prepare pilot tests and to plan for field tests. In addition, the Board will oversee development of guidelines for testing students with disabilities, appropriate test use, and test reporting, and will guide preparation of materials to inform states and school districts, as well as parents, teachers and students, about the tests.

A Strategy to Master the Basics and Reach High Standards. The voluntary national tests will provide students, parents, and teachers with meaningful scores to compare individual student performance to widely accepted national and international standards, and to identify students and schools that need extra help. These standard measures of excellence will help teachers and principals improve curriculum and instruction, give students a guide for charting their own progress, and help parents hold schools accountable for improved performance.



National Assessment Governing Board

National Assessment of Educational Progress

FOR RELEASE
Friday, November 21, 1997

Contact: Lawrence Feinberg
202-357-6942 or
(11/21-22) 703-412-0053

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD PLANS TO DEVELOP NATIONAL TESTS BASED ON NAEP ASSESSMENTS

Statement by Mark D. Musick

Chairman, National Assessment Governing Board;
President, Southern Regional Education Board

The National Assessment Governing Board today outlined plans to handle its new responsibilities to develop the tests for the voluntary national test program. As you know, the Board was given "exclusive authority" over the test development contract in a law passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton last week.

Our aim will be to carry out the intent of Congress, which is clear in the House-Senate conference report, that these new tests, designed for individual students, "will be based on the same content and performance standards as are used for NAEP," which is a survey of how groups of students perform. The Congress also directed that the tests be "linked to NAEP to the maximum extent possible," which the Board will try to make sure is done.

The Board plans to act deliberately and fairly. Our plans include the following:

- A special committee will review the test development contract previously awarded by the Department of Education and make recommendations to the full Board. Under the law, the Board has until February 11 to approve, amend, or terminate the contract.
- A special meeting of the Board will be held in mid-January to deal with national test development issues.
- The Board's two academic committees will review the proposed specifications for the tests of 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics. The Board will hold public hearings on the test specifications and aims to act on them at its March meeting;

800 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 825, Mailstop 7583
Washington, D.C. 20002-4233
Phone: (202) 357-6938
Fax: (202) 357-6945

- The Board will review all of the test questions prepared by the contractor to make sure they cover the same content and meet the same standards of being appropriate and free from bias that are used in the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- The Board will meet with representatives of the National Academy of Sciences, which will be conducting Congressionally mandated evaluations related to development of the national test.
- The Board will seek to complete all of the work directed by Congress by September 30, 1998 so that there can be pilot testing and field testing later.

The National Assessment Governing Board was established by Congress in 1988 as an independent, bipartisan board, composed of state and local officials, educators, lay citizens, and business leaders. Our new responsibilities for the voluntary national tests are not the first challenges that the Board has been given.

Congress directed the Board in 1988 to change an assessment that had surveyed only national samples of students into a program that could give individual states a fair and independent measure of academic achievement. The Board was asked to develop "appropriate" standards of student achievement for each grade and subject tested. Since 1990, 48 states have participated in the state-by-state National Assessment program, which has been carried out in mathematics, reading, and science.

Now President Clinton and Congress have directed the Governing Board to take an assessment that has been used voluntarily by nearly every state to get a state-level measure of achievement and develop an individual version of NAEP that will give information to parents, teachers, and students.

At the Board's regularly quarterly meeting today we have created a special committee to review the test development contract. As the new law requires, the contract will be carefully reviewed, but under the law, the Board has only 90 days--until February 11--to make any contract changes or decide to terminate it. As chairman of this special committee, I have appointed a former chairman of the Board, William Randall, who for many years was state Commissioner of Education in Colorado. The other members include the Board's Vice Chair, Mary Blanton, a general public member of NAGB, and James Ellingson, Thomas Fisher, Edward Haertel and Deborah Voltz. I have also appointed one of the newest members of the board, Diane Ravitch to the committee. She is a distinguished scholar who has written extensively on education standards, and she also was an Assistant Secretary of Education under President Bush.

In mid-January the Governing Board will hold a special meeting to consider the Committee's recommendations and take up other matters pertaining to the national test development.

The Board is also setting in motion a process to adopt specifications for the tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics. The process will include a review of the test specifications that have already been proposed. We will hold public hearings. We will listen carefully. And we will carry out the job Congress has asked us to do—develop an individualized version of the National Assessment that will be able to show students whether they can meet NAEP's standards of basic, proficient, or advanced achievement.

We are confident that we can meet the timetable that Congress has laid out. We also will make sure that the Board takes care of its regular work of setting policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Since the Governing Board was established almost a decade ago, we have worked hard to develop high student performance standards on NAEP, which require the mandate and the commitment that only an independent, broadly-representative Board can give.

We are aware of the difficulties and challenges that are part of the directives from the President and Congress. We are not unaware of the complexity and controversy surrounding the voluntary national tests. We believe that this task was given to the Board because it has proven since 1988 that it is fair, bipartisan, deliberative and independent as it tackles complex and often controversial issues. We believe that we can do what the President and Congress have asked of us.



Draft

FOR RELEASE Contact: David Thomas
k:\shared\nddrafts\nagbee97(202) 401-1579

RILEY APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS TO NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley has announced the appointment of two new members of the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB).

New members appointed to three-year terms ending September 30, 2000 are:

- o Lynn Marmer, Cincinnati school board president and attorney, Dinsmore & Shohl; and,
- o Jo Ann Pottorff, state representative, Kansas Legislature.

"Members of the National Assessment Governing Board provide the guidance and leadership our schools need to ensure that *all* students learn to high standards," Riley said. "Determining what students know and should be able to do at key points in their k-12 education is an important responsibility. The people appointed to NAGB have the experience, knowledge, and the insight to develop and design future assessments for our nation's students."

The 25-member board formulates policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students should know and can do in various subjects.

The board is involved in a number of activities, including:

- o selecting the subjects to be tested;
- o identifying assessment objectives for each age and grade tested;
- o ensuring that all items selected for use in the assessment are free

from racial, cultural, gender or regional bias; and,

- o Identifying appropriate achievement goals.

The secretary appoints members from nominees in categories prescribed by law. The board must include governors or former governors, state legislators, educators, testing experts and curriculum specialists, as well as business and industry representatives, parents and persons representing the general public.

LYNN MARMER
3181 N. Farmcrest Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45213

EDUCATION:

University of Cincinnati
Juris Doctor (1986)
Editor-in-Chief - U.C. Law Review
Masters Community Planning (1980)
Bachelor of Science of Education (1974)

Cincinnati Public Schools
Walnut Hills High School (1970)
Bond Hill Elementary School

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

TEACHER:

Cincinnati Public Schools (1975-1979)
Sawyer Junior High School
Porter Junior High School
Hughes High School
Lower Price Hill Community School
Home Instructor and Substitute Teacher
Warren County (1974-1975)

CITY PLANNER: City of Cincinnati (1979-1982) - received CONG award for
work with city neighborhoods
Hollister House (1982-1983) - developed housing for
severely handicapped

ATTORNEY:

Dinsmore & Shohl (1988-Present) - Business Attorney
Strauss & Troy (1986-1988)

CIVIC COMMITMENTS:

Cincinnati Public Schools, Board Member, 1994-1997; President 1997
Free Store/Food Bank, Secretary
Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, former Board Member
City of Cincinnati Historic Conservation Board, former Member
Urban Appalachian Council, former Board Member
Excel Development Company, founding Board Member
Cincinnati Development Fund, founding Board Member
Cincinnati Bar Association, Member
American Planning Association; Ohio Planning Conference, Member

PERSONAL:

Married, Eugene L. Beaupre; one daughter

JO ANN POTTORFF

Jo Ann McCluggage Pottorff is a real estate associate with the Chester Kappelman Group in Wichita. She has served as 83rd District Representative in the Kansas House of Representatives since 1984; and is currently a member of the Appropriations committee and chairmen of the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources.

Jo Ann received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Kansas State University, the reading specialist certification from Wichita State University; and a master's degree in urban education from St. Louis University.

She is a former president of the Kansas Association of School Boards and has been president of the Wichita School Board. She served as vice chairman of the Council of Urban School Boards for the National School Board Association. Other activities include; interim director for the Wichita Area Rape Center, elementary specialist for the Midcontinent Regional Educational Laboratory, and past president of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Auxiliary.

Jo Ann served as chairperson of the Women's Network-National Conference of State Legislators, chairperson of the NCSL Assembly on the Legislature Arts and Tourism committee, was an at-large member of the NASAA board and on the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. She is a member of the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Kansas Advisory Council for Accessible Arts, former vice president of the Women's Advisory Council for Institute of Logopedics, and is a former board member of the YWCA.

In 1984 she was one of 35 individuals statewide selected to participate in Leadership Kansas and in 1988, was one of 100 women who participated in Leadership America. She has received a Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas Association of School Boards, and is a Kansas State University Fellow. Jo Ann was also commended by the Kansas Reading Association for authoring the Kansas legislation for the Parents As Teachers Program. In 1995 Jo Ann received the Distinguished Legislative Service Award on behalf of Kansans with Disabilities.

Jo Ann has been a participant in international seminars in Japan on Health Care Issues for the Aging; and in Korea on Women Running for Political Office.

PERSONAL:

Name:	Jo Ann Pettorff
Home Address:	6321 E. 6th, Wichita, KS 67208
Telephone:	(316) 684-3780
Topeka Office Address:	State Capitol, Topeka, KS 66612
Office Number:	(913) 296-7501 during session
District Office:	(316) 682-5581
	Fax Number: (316) 682-1282

EDUCATION:

B. A. Elementary Education - Kansas State University
Reading Specialist - Wichita State University
M. A. Urban Education - St. Louis University

EMPLOYMENT:

State Representative - Kansas Legislature
Real Estate Sales Associate - Chester Kappelman Group

EMPLOYMENT - PAST:

Conference Coordinator for International Conference Biomedical Synergistics Institute
Consultant in Human Relations - Poindexter Associates
Consultant Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory
Elementary Specialist - Cooperative Urban Teacher Education and Mid-Continent Regional Educational Laboratory

ACTIVITIES - PRESENT:

Kansas House of Representatives
Committees: Chairman-Joint Committee on Arts & Cultural Resources
Appropriations

Wichita Chamber of Commerce

East Wichita Rotary

Wichita Children's Home - Board of Trustees

Children and Youth Advisory Committee

World Trade Council

POTTORFF, JO ANN

ACTIVITIES - PRESENT: (Cont.)

St. Francis Hospital-Community Liaison Health Committee

Wichita State University-Colloquy of Health Professionals Visiting Committee

Kansas Council on Economic Education

Kansas Economic Development for South Central Kansas

Kansas Inc.-Work Force Training and Education Committee

Accessible Arts-Kansas Advisory Council

Wichita Board of Realtors - Legislative Committee

Kansas Board of Realtors

National Board of Realtors

National Conference of State Legislatures
Women's Network - Past Chairman

Kansas Cavalry

Military Affairs Committee
Wichita Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Air Service Committee
Wichita Chamber of Commerce

Forum for Executive Women

Business Education Success Team (BEST) Executive Committee

National Order of Women Legislature-Board of Directors

ACTIVITIES - PAST:

POTTORFF, JO ANN

**Council of Urban Boards of Education, Vice Chairman
National School Boards Association**

Wichita Board of Education - President

Kansas Association of School Boards - President

Kansas Foundation for the Handicapped - Board of Directors

National Association of State Arts Agencies -at-large board member

White House Conference on Travel and Tourism

Parents as Teachers Advisory Board

Institute of Logopedics Women's Advisory Council - Vice President

Kansas Veterinary Medical Auxiliary - President

**National Conference of State Legislatures
Arts & Tourism Committee-Chairman
Education, Labor, and Job Training Committee-Vice Chairman**

Kansas Agriculture in the Classroom-board member

YWCA - Board Member

Leadership Kansas

Leadership America (one of 100 women in first class)

Japan Study Tour on Health Care Issues for the Aging

International Conference on Women Running for Political Office-Presenter in Seoul, Korea

AWARDS:

Alumni Fellow - Kansas State University College of Education

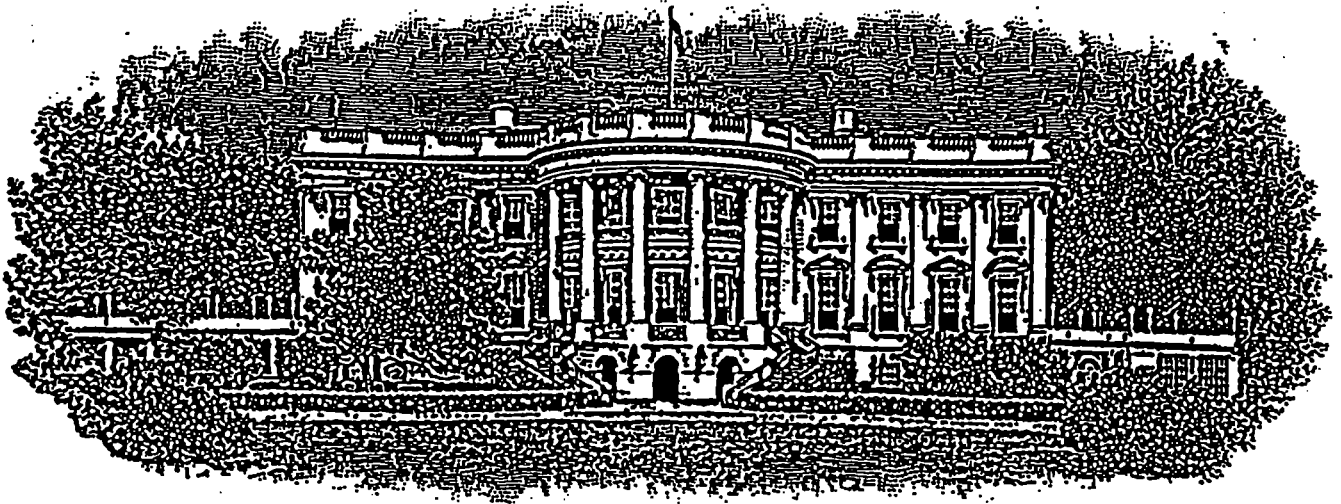
Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedicated Service

Award for Outstanding Service to the School Children of the Nation

Parents as Teachers - Kansas Reading Association

Distinguished Legislative Service Award on behalf of Kansans with Disabilities

The White House



Domestic Policy Council
Old Executive Office Building, Room 220
Washington, DC 20502

Telephone Number: (202) 456-2857
Alternate: (202) 456-2216

FAX Number: (202) 456-⁵⁵⁸¹~~7028~~
Alternate FAX: (202) 456-~~7431~~
7028

FAX COVER SHEET

TO:

Mark Musick

FAX:

703-412-0054, x 1906

FROM:

BILL KINCAID & Mike Chen

THIS FAX INCLUDES THE COVER SHEET PLUS 1 PAGES.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE COMPLETE FAX, PLEASE CALL (202) 456-2857.

MESSAGE:

Please review the attached draft plus one-page
on the radio address, especially the starred paragraph.
Also, please let us know when we can expect
to receive some material from you. Thanks.

DRAFT

**INDEPENDENT BOARD ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY
FOR DEVELOPING NATIONAL TESTS**

DRAFT -- November 21, 1997

Tonight, I issue a challenge to the nation: Every state should adopt high national standards, and . . . every state should test every 4th grader in reading and every 8th grader in math to make sure these standards are met.

President Bill Clinton
1997 State of the Union Address

Today, in his weekly radio address, President Clinton commended the bipartisan, independent National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) for its plan to develop and pilot the new voluntary national tests in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math. The President also announced new appointments to the Board, including Diane Ravitch, former Assistant Secretary of Education in the Bush Administration and a strong supporter of national standards and tests.

NAGB Assumes Control for National Tests. As proposed by the President, the recently enacted Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Bill places the bipartisan, independent NAGB in complete control of further work in developing the voluntary national tests. NAGB currently oversees the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a sample test of core subjects that tracks the progress of the nation as a whole and of 43 participating states, but does not provide individual student, school, or district level results.

The new national tests will be modeled on the NAEP content frameworks in 4th grade reading and 8th grade mathematics. The NAEP standards reflect a national consensus of what students should know and be able to do when they reach these crucial stages of learning.

Under the legislation, NAGB is now responsible for formulating policy for the voluntary national tests, just as it does for NAEP. The law charges NAGB with reviewing and modifying, if necessary, the contract to develop the tests. NAGB can also review, modify, and approve test specifications. This week, before meeting with the President, NAGB formally assumed control over the tests and adopted a detailed plan and timeline for test development.

New Appointment Underscores Bipartisan Commitment to National Tests. Along with two other new members of NAGB, the President announced that Secretary Riley had appointed to the Board Diane Ravitch, a long-time supporter of national standards and tests. Ravitch, former Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement under the Bush Administration, has supported enhancing independence of the national tests by giving control to NAGB.

Work Will Proceed in Key Areas of Test Development. Over coming months, under the direction of NAGB, the test development contractor will research the needs of students, parents, and teachers; write test items; gather feedback from advisory panels on reading and math; plan pilot tests; and prepare for field tests. In addition, the Board will oversee development of guidelines for testing students with disabilities, appropriate test use, and test reporting, and will guide preparation of materials to inform states and school districts, as well as parents, teachers and students, about the tests.

A Strategy to Master the Basics and Reach High Standards. The voluntary national tests will provide students, parents, and teachers with meaningful scores to compare individual student performance to widely accepted national and international standards and to identify students and schools that need extra help. In addition, when parents, teachers and students receive test results, they will also learn which questions the student got right and which ones were incorrect. These standard measures of excellence will help teachers and principals improve curriculum and instruction, give students a guide for charting their own progress, and help parents hold schools accountable for improved performance.