



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENTNat Test /
Correspondence

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7/1TIME: 12:35TO: Bill KFROM: MissyFAX NUMBER: 456 7028SUBJECT: AlaskaNUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING FAX COVER SHEET: 2PLEASE CALL (202) 219-2050 IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEM
RECEIVING THIS TRANSMITTAL.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

JUL-01-97 TUE 11:38
06/30/97 17:39

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US DEPT OF EDUCATION → 2191466

FAX NO. 2022191402

P.02
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JUN-30-97 MON 04:35 PM

P.02

JUN-30-97 08:50 FROM OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

ID:9874853455

PAGE 2/2

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 1-8000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-0001
(907) 465-0500
Fax (907) 465-3532

June 25, 1997

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-0100

Dear Mr. *Richard* Secretary:

Alaska plans to participate in the new national student assessment of 4th graders in reading proficiency and 8th graders in math proficiency, scheduled to begin in 1999. I look forward to the availability of this new tool to help improve the educational opportunities for our Alaska students.

Currently Alaska tests all students in grades 4, 8, and 11 in reading, language arts, and math using the California Achievement Test, and plans to participate in the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress for students in grade 4 and 8 in reading and grade 8 in writing. Additionally, we just completed field testing a performance-based writing assessment tool for students in grades 5, 7, and 10, which will be administered statewide next year.

As President Clinton's initiative employs performance-based testing, I am very excited for Alaska to integrate this initiative into our current student assessment system. The information provided by this assessment will document, for the first time, the educational progress of individual students measured against national standards, as well as provide data to make state, national, and international comparisons.

I look forward to meeting with you during your upcoming visit to our state.

Sincerely,

Tony Knowles
Tony Knowles
Governor

*Thank for your
visit this summer
to Alaska!*

National Tests -
CorrespondenceUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 6/1

TIME: 5:15

TO: Bill K

FAX#: 456-7028

FROM: Missy

Number of pages including fax cover: 3

PLEASE CALL (202) 219-1385 IF THERE IS ANY PROBLEM IN
TRANSMITTAL.

Special Comments:

For your files - please
share w/ me e.
Thanks

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Richard Riley
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

May 21, 1997

PM 7 MAY 22 A 8:55

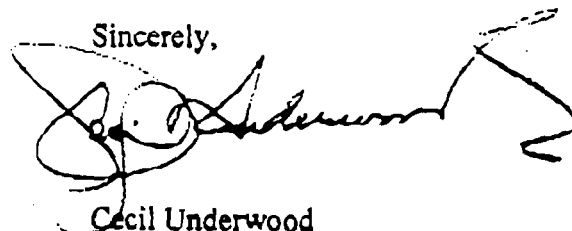
Dear Secretary Riley:

As Governor of the State of West Virginia, and on behalf of Dr. Henry Marockie, State Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Cleo Mathews, President, and the West Virginia Board of Education, I would like to express the State's support for President Clinton's proposed plan to develop a national testing program for all students in grades four and eight. We believe that our citizens deserve the best information possible regarding the effectiveness of the school system's efforts to provide a high quality education for all children and welcome the opportunity to demonstrate that such is the case.

At great personal sacrifice the people of West Virginia have consistently voted to support state and local schools with a greater percentage of their income than do most other states. We believe that those dollars have been well spent as evidenced by the improved performance of state students, on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and other measures. Unlike NAEP, the proposed program would provide an annual assessment in the critical areas of mathematics and reading by testing all students in grades four in reading and all students in grade eight in mathematics. The information gleaned from this assessment would establish the means to document for the first time what educational progress is being made--state by state and in the nation as a whole-- and provide West Virginia with national benchmarks of achievement.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months to make this proposal a reality. From our experience with a statewide testing program, we have learned just how valuable information gleaned from a systematic assessment program is to an effective and efficient school improvement process.

Sincerely,



Cecil Underwood
Governor of West Virginia



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

(617) 727-3600

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNORARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 21, 1997

1997 MAY 22 A 9:53

Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Room 4181
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Riley:

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Our experience in Massachusetts has shown that it is crucial for the state to lead the effort to set rigorous academic standards for all students, and we are in the process of implementing the higher academic standards which are part of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993. This far-reaching legislation has helped increase expectations of student performance among educators and parents, and the measure of our success will be in our new state-wide assessment program for fourth, eighth, and tenth grade students, scheduled to begin in full in the spring of 1998.

In recent years, Massachusetts has been an active partner in many of the federal government's education initiatives. The GOALS 2000 legislation and the School-to-Work program have benefited many of the Commonwealth's schools. Federal support for Massachusetts charter schools is another important instance where federal-state partnership has helped improve public education. This new assessment initiative will provide important information about student achievement, and will further enhance the Commonwealth's efforts to improve our schools. Commissioner of Education Robert Antonucci stands ready to work with you and your staff to implement these measures.

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William F. Weld

Handwritten signature of Argeo Paul Cellucci.

Argeo Paul Cellucci

JUN-30-97 MON 04:35 PM

P. 02

JUN-30-97 06:50 FROM: OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

ID: 9874853455

PAGE 2/2

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNORSTATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAUR.O. Box 1-0001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99901-0001
(907) 485-6500
Fax (907) 485-3532

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GOVERNORSTATE OF ALASKA
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JUNEAUR.O. Box 14000
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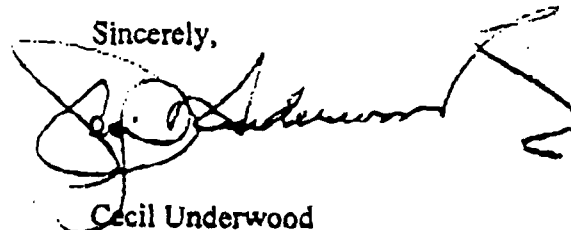
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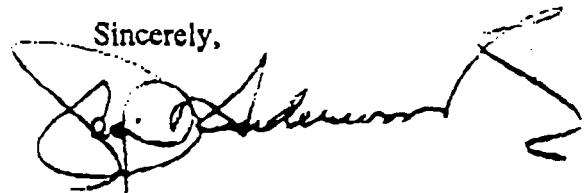
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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LEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 21, 1997

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William F. Weld

Handwritten signature of Argeo Paul Cellucci.

Argeo Paul Cellucci



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William F. Weld

Handwritten signature of Argeo Paul Cellucci.

Argeo Paul Cellucci

TO Bill
From Missy
4 pages total

Letters ~~to~~ KY & WVA
from

456 7029

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Henry R. Marockie, State Superintendent of Schools
Building 6/1900 Kanawha Blvd. E./Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

Phone: 304-558-2681
Fax: 304-558-0048

West Virginia Board of Education

Cleo P. Mathews, President
Sheila M. Hamilton, Vice President
James J. MacCallum, Secretary
Michael D. Greer
Audrey S. Horne
Jim L. McKnight
Paul J. Morris
Charles H. Wagoner
Gary C. White

1997 APR 28 A 10:03

April 17, 1997



Dr. Richard Riley
Secretary of Education
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Riley:

I am pleased to inform you that the West Virginia Board of Education voted at its April 10, 1997, meeting to volunteer to participate as a pilot state in the development of the fourth and eighth grade national testing. The West Virginia Board of Education has had a strong interest in the area of assessment as a process of improving instruction and providing accountability to the citizens of our state. We currently use assessment measures in grades K-12 for a variety of purposes.

The administration of a reading test at the fourth grade and a mathematics test at the eighth grade will fit in very well with our instructional program delivery and assessment process. I am, therefore, asking that you accept this letter as action on the part of the State of West Virginia to volunteer as a pilot state for the initial administration of the fourth and eighth grade test.

This information has been communicated to the President as per the attached letter.

Thank you for your constant and visionary leadership in education and your commitment to improve the quality of learning and the quality of life in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Marockie', written over a horizontal line.

Henry Marockie
State Superintendent of Schools

HM:KCS:tag/971

Attachment

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Henry R. Marockie, State Superintendent of Schools
Building 61200 Kanawha Blvd. E./Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

Phone: 304-558-2681
Fax: 304-558-0048

West Virginia Board of Education

Clea P. Matthews, President
Sheila M. Hamilton, Vice President
James J. MacCallum, Secretary
Michael D. Greer
Audrey S. Horne
Jini L. McKnight
Paul J. Morris
Charles H. Wagoner
Gary G. White



April 17, 1997

President William J. Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-0006

Dear Mr. President:

The purpose of this letter is two-fold: to again thank you for scheduling the meeting with CCSSO Leadership and to inform you of action taken by the West Virginia Board of Education at its April meeting.

It was unfortunate that you were not able to be with us to discuss your plans for the national testing at grades four and eight. However, Vice President Gore did an admirable job of filling in for you. The proposed national testing will fit in well with the testing programs of most states and clearly is a direction that the nation needs to take. Thank you for exercising leadership in this important area of education.

We want to inform you that on April 12, 1997, the West Virginia Board of Education voted unanimously to volunteer as a pilot state for the initial administration of the fourth and eighth grade test. West Virginia has been aggressive in the implementation and use of norm-referenced tests. Your proposal will blend in very well with our established testing program which spans grades K-12. The State Board was very excited about the prospect of being a pilot state and is committed to working with the national testing initiative in the future.

Again, thank you for meeting with the CCSSO Leadership. We in West Virginia look forward to being in the vanguard as this initiative is implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Marockie".

Henry Marockie
State Superintendent of Schools

HM:KCS:tag/969

cc: Dr. Richard Riley, Secretary of Education

49401

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNORPAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR700 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

May 7, 1997

Secretary Richard W. Riley
United States Department of Education
600 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-0100

Dear Secretary Riley:

Please include Kentucky among the states which plan to administer the new national tests of reading proficiency of 4th graders and math proficiency of 8th grade students in 1999. I understand that Deputy Secretary Marshall Smith has already received a request from Kentucky Commissioner Bill Cody that our state be included in this individual student assessment.

This initiative of President Clinton promises to be a valuable addition to Kentucky's ongoing work to assess the results of efforts to achieve very high standards. The Kentucky Education Reform Act passed in 1990 called for an assessment of student achievement that was primarily performance-based and similar to NAEP. Our state has developed such an assessment system, but the new national tests based on the NAEP content and performance standards would greatly strengthen our assessment of individual students and our ability to report to parents how their child performs relative to national standards.

We look forward to the availability of this new tool for improving the education of boys and girls in Kentucky's schools.

Sincerely

Paul E. Patton

cc: Wilmer S. Cody
Commissioner of Education

1997 MAY 14 PM 1:53

Daryl

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 13, 1997

March 13, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Participation of Department of Defense Dependents
Schools and Domestic Dependent Elementary and
Secondary Schools in National Testing

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas and the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools here at home play an important role in enhancing the quality of life and overall readiness of the Armed Forces of the United States. They provide military families deployed overseas and within the United States with outstanding educational opportunities, and they play a vital role in preparing the children of military and civilian personnel in the Armed Forces for the future.

Students in these schools deserve the best we can offer, starting with the highest expectations and most challenging academic standards available. Drawn from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, located in 15 countries throughout the world and in seven States and Puerto Rico here at home, all highly mobile, no group of students better underscores the need for common national standards and a uniform way of measuring progress.

That is why I am pleased the Department of Defense Dependents Schools and Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools have accepted the challenge of benchmarking the performance of their students against widely accepted national standards in fourth grade reading and eighth grade math, using voluntary national tests aligned with these standards. This step will ensure that students, parents, and teachers in the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools will have honest, accurate information about whether students are mastering the basic skills. Along with the States of Maryland, Michigan, and North Carolina, the DoDEA schools are among the first in the Nation to commit to participate in this testing program, beginning in 1999.

Accepting this challenge or meeting national standards means much more than administering new tests. It means beginning immediately to prepare students to meet these standards. This will require steps such as providing parents with the information and assistance they need to be their child's first teacher, upgrading the curriculum, implementing proven instructional practices and programs, making accessible new technologies to enhance teaching and learning, supporting and rewarding good teaching, and providing students who need it with extra help and tutoring.

The DoDEA schools have already begun this task, but much more needs to be done. And the lessons the DoDEA schools learn from these efforts can be valuable for other schools throughout our Nation.

more

(OVER)

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Therefore I direct you to ensure that the DoDEA schools take these and other steps as appropriate, and use all available resources to prepare every one of their students to meet these standards, in 1999 and each year thereafter, and to report annually on the progress being made toward this objective, and on the effectiveness of the strategies and approaches the DoDEA school system uses to achieve it.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

(617) 727-3600

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNORARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

*****URGENT*****

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Michael Cohen
(202) 456-7028NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 2FROM Governor William F. Weld, Lt. Governor Paul CellucciExecutive Office of the Governor
Room 360 State House
Boston, MA 02133phone: (617) 727-3600
fax: (617) 727-9723



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

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**WV Department of Education FAX Numbers**

Superintendent's Office - (304) 558-0048

Child Nutrition - (304) 558-1149

Finance - (304) 558-8867

Healthy Schools - (304) 558-3787

JTPA - (304) 558-1055

Public Relations - (304) 558-0882

Special Education - (304) 558-3741

Technology - (304) 558-2584

Vocational Education - (304) 558-3946

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Mike Cohen	
FAX NUMBER:	(202) 456-5581 / 456-7028
FROM: Barbara Jones	
PHONE NUMBER: (304) 558-2118	
DATE/TIME: 5-21-97	
TOTAL PAGES:	2 (including cover page)
SUBJECT:	
NOTES:	
OPERATOR:	

Person on site

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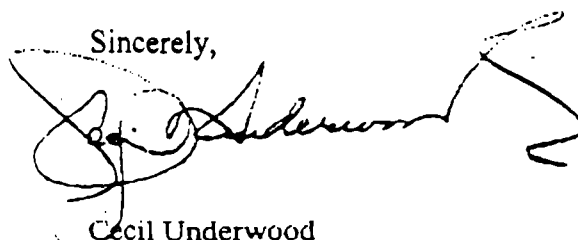
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecil Underwood", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cecil Underwood
Governor of West Virginia



NEWS RELEASE

contact: Milt Goldberg
202/289-2944

Business leaders endorse President Clinton's initiative to develop voluntary national tests

Washington, DC (May 21, 1997) - James F. Orr III, chairman and CEO of UNUM Corporation and chairman of the National Alliance of Business (NAB), today announced the endorsement of the Alliance for efforts supporting the initiative to develop voluntary national tests, originally proposed by President Clinton in his 1997 State of the Union address, to measure student reading skills in the 4th grade and mathematics skills in the 8th grade. The Alliance believes these voluntary tests could be used by state and local school districts to measure the progress of American students in these core subjects.

The Alliance recently surveyed its members on this issue and an overwhelming number supported the initiative to develop the voluntary national tests.

The Alliance works cooperatively with over 300 state and local business/education coalitions in partnership with school leaders, parents, and teachers to improve the quality of American education.

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The National Alliance of Business is a nonprofit, business-led organization dedicated to building a quality workforce by improving American education, forging a smooth transition from school to work, expanding life-long learning opportunities for incumbent workers and fostering strategies that simultaneously address worker security and employer flexibility. The Alliance is chaired by James F. Orr III, chairman and CEO of UNUM Corporation.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Richard Riley
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

May 21, 1997

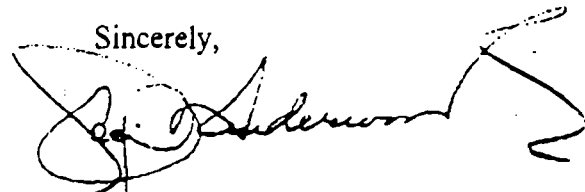
Dear Secretary Riley:

As Governor of the State of West Virginia, and on behalf of Dr. Henry Marockie, State Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Cleo Mathews, President, and the West Virginia Board of Education, I would like to express the State's support for President Clinton's proposed plan to develop a national testing program for all students in grades four and eight. We believe that our citizens deserve the best information possible regarding the effectiveness of the school system's efforts to provide a high quality education for all children and welcome the opportunity to demonstrate that such is the case.

At great personal sacrifice the people of West Virginia have consistently voted to support state and local schools with a greater percentage of their income than do most other states. We believe that those dollars have been well spent as evidenced by the improved performance of state students, on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and other measures. Unlike NAEP, the proposed program would provide an annual assessment in the critical areas of mathematics and reading by testing all students in grades four in reading and all students in grade eight in mathematics. The information gleaned from this assessment would establish the means to document for the first time what educational progress is being made--state by state and in the nation as a whole-- and provide West Virginia with national benchmarks of achievement.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months to make this proposal a reality. From our experience with a statewide testing program, we have learned just how valuable information gleaned from a systematic assessment program is to an effective and efficient school improvement process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecil Underwood", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cecil Underwood
Governor of West Virginia



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

May 21, 1997

Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Room 4181
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Riley:

The Commonwealth is pleased to participate in the new national assessment of student achievement in reading at grade 4 and mathematics at grade 8, scheduled to begin in 1999. We look forward to this federal effort to raise achievement by setting high standards for what students should know in the critical areas of numeracy and literacy.

Our experience in Massachusetts has shown that it is crucial for the state to lead the effort to set rigorous academic standards for all students, and we are in the process of implementing the higher academic standards which are part of the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993. This far-reaching legislation has helped increase expectations of student performance among educators and parents, and the measure of our success will be in our new state-wide assessment program for fourth, eighth, and tenth grade students, scheduled to begin in full in the spring of 1998.

In recent years, Massachusetts has been an active partner in many of the federal government's education initiatives. The GOALS 2000 legislation and the School-to-Work program have benefited many of the Commonwealth's schools. Federal support for Massachusetts charter schools is another important instance where federal-state partnership has helped improve public education. This new assessment initiative will provide important information about student achievement, and will further enhance the Commonwealth's efforts to improve our schools. Commissioner of Education Robert Antonucci stands ready to work with you and your staff to implement these measures.

Again, we are pleased to join with the Clinton Administration in supporting this new assessment program to raise the level of student learning, throughout the Commonwealth and across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Weld".

William F. Weld

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Argeo Paul Cellucci".

Argeo Paul Cellucci