

HARVARD



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Dear Chair Barbour, Vice Chair Peisch, Executive Director Muldoon, and esteemed members of the National Assessment Governing Board:

I write to express my support for the proposed Reading Framework for the 2026 National Assessment of Educational Progress ([draft dated April 21, 2021](#)). If I were still a NAGB member, I would vote to approve it.

Last July, in my last quarterly meeting on the board, [I encouraged the panel](#) to increase their overlap with the current framework to protect trend measurement. I applaud the panel's subsequent revisions. NCES has now concluded that, "there is a high likelihood of maintaining trend under the updated framework" ([p. 233](#)). I agree with their assessment.

As many of you know, I believe the primary purpose of NAEP is to report relevant educational progress over time. [We share this belief](#). NAEP cannot be relevant without looking forward. NAEP cannot be useful without looking to the past. I am pleased to see that, yet again, through deliberation, negotiation, and compromise, another NAEP framework is poised to do both.

In my [closing remarks last July](#), I predicted contentious discussions ahead, reflecting increasing NAEP importance and proliferating NAGB opportunities. You can be an authoritative measure of pre-pandemic-to-post-pandemic achievement trends. You can support a system of equity indicators. You can integrate an index of socioeconomic status. I look forward to your achieving these goals with the spirit of collegiality that is over a 30-year tradition. I close here as I closed my remarks in July, "I do not expect all of our votes ahead of us are likely to be unanimous, but I trust that our commitment to our mission will be."

Respectfully,

Andrew Ho