Appendix A

Parent Letters

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-283-6237 • FAX 301-294-2030

1999-2000 School Year

Dear Parent:

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an ongoing survey of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects taught in school. Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics under the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP will be given in about 2,700 schools throughout the country in 2000. Your child's school has been selected to participate in NAEP. The district superintendent and school principal have been fully informed of the survey and have agreed to have the school participate.

This letter is to inform parents of all students in the grade we are sampling about the survey. The selection of students for the survey is random, and, if selected, participation in the program will not affect your child's grades or progress in school. NAEP is conducted by our staff **at no cost to the school.**

In 2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

NAEP asks students questions about the subject matter and also about their background, school experience, and what teachers teach in the classroom. Student responses to these background questions allow NAEP to report data nationally by the type of school, gender, race/ethnicity, teachers' emphases, and other factors related to learning. Individual student responses are never reported and **student names are never removed from the school.**

Visit the NAEP website at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard for more information about the 2000 assessment. In addition to the website, NAEP has developed a Demonstration Booklet that contains samples of the types of reading, math, and science questions, as well as the general background questions, that students are asked. To see the Demonstration Booklet that NAEP has provided, please contact the school principal.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is an important activity that keeps us, as parents, citizens, and educators, informed about what American students are learning. We want you to know that we appreciate the participation of each child who is selected.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
NAEP Project Director

01

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD naep

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1630 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-283-6237 • FAX 301-294-2030

1999-2000 School Year

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In 2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

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Sincerely,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
NAEP Project Director

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD naep

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1990 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE: 1-800-28-NAEP • FAX: 301-294-2018

1999-2000 School Year

Dear Parent:

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an ongoing survey of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects taught in school. Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics under the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP will be given in about 2,700 schools throughout the country in 2000. The district superintendent and your school principal have been fully informed of the survey and have agreed to have the school participate.

This letter is to inform parents of all students in the grade we are sampling about the survey. The selection of students for the survey is random, and, if selected, participation in the program will not affect your child's grades or progress in school. NAEP is conducted by our staff **at no cost to the school**. Before we proceed with the survey, we want to be sure you do not object to your child's participation.

In 2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

NAEP asks students questions about the subject matter and also about their background, school experience, and what teachers teach in the classroom. Student responses to these background questions allow NAEP to report data nationally by the type of school, gender, race/ethnicity, teachers' emphases, and other factors related to learning. Individual student responses are never reported and **student names are never removed from the school.**

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The National Assessment of Educational Progress is an important activity that keeps us, as parents, citizens, and educators, informed about what American students are learning. We want you to know that we appreciate the participation of each child who is selected. **If you object to your child's participation**, please complete and return the attached form to the school. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
NAEP Project Director

IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO YOUR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION,
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL.

☐ I have been informed of the nature of the National Assessment of Educational Progress and **do not want my child to participate**.

Print Child's Name: _____
Last First Middle

_____ _____
Parent's or Guardian's Signature Date

03

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-283-6237 • FAX 301-294-2038

1999-2000 School Year

Dear Parent:

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an ongoing survey of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects taught in school. Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics under the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP will be given in about 2,700 schools throughout the country in 2000. The district superintendent and your school principal have been fully informed of the survey and have agreed to have the school participate.

Since your child was among those randomly selected to participate in NAEP, the school has given us permission to contact you. NAEP is conducted by our staff **at no cost to the school**. Before we proceed with the survey, we want to make sure you do not have any objection to your child's participation.

In 2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

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Sincerely,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
NAEP Project Director

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IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL.

☐ I have been informed of the nature of the National Assessment of Educational Progress and **do not want my child to participate.**

Print Child's Name: _____
Last First Middle

_____ _____
Parent's or Guardian's Signature Date

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD naep

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-638-6237 • FAX 301-294-2108

IMPORTANT! PLEASE RETURN THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY

1999-2000 School Year

Dear Parent:

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an ongoing survey of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects taught in school. Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics under the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP will be given in about 2,700 schools throughout the country in 2000. Your child's school has been selected to participate in NAEP. The district superintendent and school principal have been fully informed of the survey and have agreed to have the school participate.

This letter is to inform parents of all students in the grade we are sampling about the survey. The selection of students for the survey is random, and before we proceed with the survey, **we must have written permission** for your child to participate. If your child is selected, participation in the survey will not affect your child's grades or progress in school. NAEP is conducted by our staff **at no cost to the school** and requires about 90 minutes of each student's time.

In 2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

NAEP asks students questions about the subject matter and also about their background, school experience, and what teachers instruct in the classroom. Student responses to these background questions allow NAEP to report data nationally by type of school, gender, race/ethnicity, teachers' emphases, and other factors related to learning. Individual student responses are never reported, and **student names are never removed from the school.**

Visit the NAEP website at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard for more information about the 2000 assessment. In addition to the website, NAEP has developed a Demonstration Booklet that contains samples of the types of reading, math, and science questions, as well as the general background questions, that students are asked. To see the Demonstration Booklet that NAEP has provided, please contact the school principal.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is an important activity that keeps us, as parents, citizens, and educators, informed about what American students are learning. We appreciate the participation of each child who is selected. **Please return the attached permission form to the school the next school day.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
NAEP Project Director

PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM -- PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

I have been informed of the nature of the National Assessment of Educational Progress and:

☐ YES, I give my permission for my child to participate.

☐ NO, I do **not** give permission for my child to participate.

Print Child's Name: _____
Last First Middle

_____ _____
Parent's or Guardian's Signature Date

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD

naep

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-283-6237 • FAX 301-294-2038

1999-2000 School Year

Dear Parent:

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an ongoing survey of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects taught in school. Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics under the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP will be given in about 1,200 schools throughout the country in the 1999-2000 school year. Your child's school has been selected to participate in NAEP. The district superintendent and school principal have been fully informed of the survey and have agreed to have the school participate.

This letter is to inform the parents of all students who were selected to participate in the survey. Participation in the program will not affect your child's grades or progress in school. Before we proceed with the survey, **we must have written permission** for your child to take part. NAEP is conducted by our staff **at no cost to the school** and requires about 90 minutes of each student's time.

In 1999-2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

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Sincerely,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
NAEP Project Director

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I have been informed of the nature of the National Assessment of Educational Progress and:

☐ YES, I give my permission for my child to participate.

☐ NO, I do **not** give permission for my child to participate.

Print Child's Name: _____
Last First Middle

_____ _____
Parent's or Guardian's Signature Date

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD naep

THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-28-NAEP • FAX 301-294-2058

IMPORTANT! PLEASE RETURN THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY

1999-2000 School Year

Dear Parent:

Recently we sent you a letter asking to include your child in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) survey. We would appreciate the opportunity to include your child in the survey, but we have not received your permission. Please take a few minutes to read the information below and **return the attached form to the school.**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an ongoing survey of what young Americans know and can do in various academic subjects taught in school. Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics under the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP will be given in about 2,700 schools throughout the country in 2000. The district superintendent and your school principal have been fully informed of the survey and have agreed to have the school participate. NAEP is conducted by our staff **at no cost to the school** and requires about 90 minutes of each student's time.

In 2000, NAEP will assess students' performance in reading at grade 4 and math and science at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time. One half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete a hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.

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Print Child's Name: _____
Last First Middle

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Parent's or Guardian's Signature Date

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naep
THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-283-6237 • FAX 301-294-2038

Año Escolar 1999-2000

Estimados Padres:

La Evaluación Nacional de Progreso Educativo (NAEP) es una encuesta actual de lo que los jóvenes americanos saben y pueden hacer en diferentes materias académicas enseñadas en la escuela. Auspiciada por el Centro Nacional de Estadísticas de Educación bajo el Departamento de Educación de Estados Unidos, NAEP será dada en más o menos 2.700 escuelas en todo el país en el año 2000. La escuela de su niño ha sido seleccionada para participar en NAEP. El superintendente de distrito y el principal de la escuela han sido ampliamente informados de la encuesta y han accedido a que la escuela participe.

Esta carta es para informar a los padres de todos los estudiantes que están en los grados que estamos incluyendo en la muestra acerca de la encuesta. La selección de los estudiantes para la encuesta es al azar, y, si es seleccionado, la participación en el programa no afectará las notas o progreso de su niño en la escuela. NAEP es conducido por nuestro personal **sin costo para la escuela.**

En el año 2000, NAEP evaluará el rendimiento de los estudiantes en lectura de 4° grado y matemáticas y ciencias en los grados 4°, 8°, y 12°. La evaluación tomará aproximadamente 90 minutos del tiempo de cada estudiante. A la mitad de los estudiantes que tomen la evaluación de ciencias se les pedirá también que hagan un experimento de ciencias. Esta tarea tomará 20 minutos adicionales para 4° grado y 30 minutos para los grados 8° y 12°.

NAEP hace preguntas a los estudiantes acerca de temas de las materias y también acerca de sus antecedentes personales, experiencias en la escuela, y lo que los maestros enseñan en el salón de clases. Las respuestas de los estudiantes a estas preguntas de antecedentes personales permiten a NAEP reportar la información nacionalmente por el tipo de escuela, sexo, raza/etnicidad, énfasis de los maestro, y otros factores relacionados con la enseñanza. Las respuestas individuales de los estudiantes nunca son reportadas y **el nombre de los estudiantes nunca se saca de la escuela.**

Visite la red mundial de NAEP en: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard para mayor información acerca de la evaluación del 2000. En adición a la red mundial, NAEP ha desarrollado un Folleto de Demostración que contiene muestras de los tipos de preguntas de lectura, matemáticas y ciencias, así como de las preguntas de antecedentes personales generales, que se le preguntan a los estudiantes. Para ver el Folleto de Demostración que NAEP proporciona, por favor comuníquese con el principal de la escuela.

La Evaluación Nacional de Progreso Educativo es una importante actividad que nos mantiene a nosotros, como padres, ciudadanos, y educadores, informados acerca de lo que los estudiantes en américa están aprendiendo. Queremos que sepa que nosotros apreciamos la participación de cada estudiante que es elegido.

Sinceramente,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
Director del Proyecto NAEP

01-Sp

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD
naep
THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

1650 RESEARCH BOULEVARD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
TELEPHONE 1-800-283-6237 • FAX 301-294-2038

Año Escolar 1999-2000

Estimados Padres:

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Esta carta es para informar a los padres de todos los estudiantes que fueron seleccionados al azar para participar acerca de la encuesta. La participación en el programa no afectará las notas o progreso de su niño en la escuela. NAEP es conducido por nuestro personal **sin costo para la escuela.**

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Sinceramente,

Stephen Lazer

Stephen Lazer
Director del Proyecto NAEP

02-Sp

Appendix B

Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: School Contact
Phone Number

LOCAL SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND READING

Enter City and State (Date) – *(Insert name of local school)* has announced that it will participate in the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). *(Insert name of school)* is one of only 2700 schools nationwide asked to participate.

The 2000 NAEP assessment, which requires about 90-120 minutes of a student's time, is designed to measure what students know and can do in mathematics, science, and reading. Students will be asked to respond to mathematics, science, or reading multiple-choice questions, as well as to create their own responses, which may consist of a variety of formats including writing a sentence or more, drawing a diagram, or identifying critical elements to solve a problem. Some students who participate in the science assessment will also perform hands-on tasks that require them to make scientific investigations and observations.

As has been true since its inception in 1969, NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers, and schools that participate by not collecting student, teacher, or school names. The project is designed to report on the academic performance of large groups, based on nationally representative samples of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. NAEP provides results for major demographic groups and, using student, teacher, and school questionnaires, collects information about instructional programs and practices.

For more than a quarter-century, NAEP has been the country's only nationally representative and continuing survey of students' educational achievement. The project is authorized by Congress, directed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, and administered by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. Westat of Rockville, Maryland conducts sample selection and data collection. For more information about NAEP, visit the website at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.

PRESS RELEASE

LOCAL SCHOOLS JOIN IN SPRING 2000 PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

(Insert number or name[s] of local school[s]) is/are among only 200 schools nationwide to participate in the year 2000 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), _____ announced today.

PISA is a new international assessment designed to monitor, on a regular basis, achievement of students as they approach the end of secondary school. The U.S. is participating in this study with the goal of being able to compare the performance of U.S. students with that of students in other nations. Over 30 countries are participating in PISA altogether.

PISA is sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In the United States, PISA is being conducted under the auspices of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the United States Department of Education.

The basic design of PISA is one in which reading, mathematics and science achievement will be monitored in 3-year cycles. In each cycle, special attention will be given to one subject area though all three will be measured. The area of special attention will rotate among cycles and, for the first cycle, is reading achievement.

PISA protects the anonymity of student and school participants, so no names are ever linked to responses. Instead, the project is designed to report on the academic performance of large groups, based on nationally representative samples of students aged 15 (typically 9th and 10th graders). The assessment requires about 2 1/2 hours of each selected student's time.

More information about PISA is available on the PISA web site, located at www.oecd.pisa.org.

Optional Press Release Page Two, for Educational Publications

Reading literacy as defined by PISA requires students to perform a range of tasks with different kinds of text. The tasks range from retrieving specific information to demonstrating a broad understanding, interpreting text and reflecting on its content and features. The texts that are used will include not just standard prose passages but also various types of documents such as lists, forms, graphs, and diagrams.

Mathematical literacy as defined by PISA entails the use of mathematical competencies at several levels, ranging from performance of standard mathematical operations to mathematical thinking and insight. It also requires the knowledge and application of a range of mathematical content that is drawn from areas such as chance, change and growth, space and shape, quantitative reasoning, uncertainty and dependency relationships. This includes specific areas of the mathematics curriculum, such as algebra, numbers and geometry.

Scientific literacy as defined by PISA involves the use of key scientific concepts in order to understand and help make decisions about the natural world. It also involves being able to recognize scientific questions, use evidence, draw scientific conclusions and communicate these conclusions. Scientific concepts relevant to the students' world both now and in the near future will be used. These include concepts to do with science in life and health, earth and the environment, and technology.