

2000-2001 School Year

Dear Parent:

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This letter is to inform parents of all students in the grade we are sampling about the study. The selection of students for the study 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 2001, NAEP will assess students' performance in U.S. history, world geography, reading, or writing at grades 4, 8, and 12. The assessment will take approximately 90 minutes of each student's time.

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 or scores are never reported.

Visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> for more information about the 2001 assessment. In addition to the website, NAEP has developed a Demonstration Booklet that contains samples of the types of U.S. history, world geography, reading, and writing 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  
NAEP Project Director

2000-2001 School Year

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Sincerely,



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

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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 study, we want to make sure you do not have any objection to your child's participation.

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Stephen Lazer  
NAEP Project Director

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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.

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Parent's or Guardian's Signature

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Last First Middle

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Parent's or Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

IMPORTANT! PLEASE RETURN ON THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY

2000-2001 School Year

Dear Parent:

Recently we sent you a letter asking to include your child in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) study. We would appreciate the opportunity to include your child in the study, 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.**

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Date

Año Escolar 2000-2001

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 1.200 escuelas en todo el país en el año 2001. 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 2001, NAEP evaluará el rendimiento de los estudiantes en historia de Estados Unidos, geografía universal, lectura o escritura en los grados 4, 8, y 12. La evaluación tomará aproximadamente 90 minutos del tiempo de cada estudiante.

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 o los puntajes de los estudiantes nunca son reportados.

Visite la red mundial de NAEP en: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> para mayor información acerca de la evaluación del 2001. En adición a la red mundial, NAEP ha desarrollado un Folleto de Demostración que contiene muestras de los tipos de preguntas de historia de Estados Unidos, geografía universal, lectura y escritura, 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  
Director del Proyecto NAEP

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Director del Proyecto NAEP

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Stephen Lazer  
(609) 734-1480

**LOCAL SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL  
ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRESS IN  
GEOGRAPHY AND U.S. HISTORY  
AND FIELD TEST IN READING AND WRITING**

Enter City and State (Date) – (Insert name of local school) has announced that it will participate in the 2001 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). (Insert name of school) is one of only 1,200 schools nationwide asked to participate.

The 2001 NAEP assessment, which requires about 90 minutes of a student's time, is designed to measure what students know and can do in U.S. history and world geography. Students will be asked to respond to multiple-choice questions in U.S. history and world geography, as well as to create their own responses, which may consist of a variety of formats including writing short answers of a sentence or more or drawing a map or diagram.

In addition, a field test for the 2002 NAEP reading and writing assessments will also be administered at the school. Some students will be asked to try out questions that may be used in NAEP, which will be administered nationwide in spring 2002.

As has been true since its inception in 1969, NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers, and schools that participate by not permanently retaining 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 information gathered on student, teacher, and school questionnaires, will report on technology in the classroom and instructional programs and practices in U.S. history and world geography.

For more than thirty years, 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, NJ. Westat of Rockville, MD conducts sample selection and data collection.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Consumer  
Service

3101 Park Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

February 4, 1999

Mr. C. Kent McGuire  
Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Educational Research and Improvement  
FB-400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. McGuire:

The confidentiality of information about children eligible for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) has long been a sensitive issue for us at the Department of Agriculture. There have been many requests through the years for information about children eligible for free and reduced price meals. Many of these requests were from Federal and State education programs. Free and reduced price school meal eligibility information does not come under the purview of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, since it is not part of an education record.

Previously, program operators were only permitted to release aggregate information about children eligible for free and reduced price meals. Congress amended the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758), which is the authorizing legislation for the NSLP, to now allow limited disclosure of a child's free and reduced price meal eligibility status. Additionally, the statute also specifies civil and criminal penalties for unauthorized disclosure by the determining agency of the recipient agency.

Prior to issuance of a final regulation, we are authorizing the State agency, school food authority, school, child care institution or Summer Food Service Program sponsor that makes the free and reduced price meal or free milk eligibility determination to disclose free and reduced price eligibility information to the extent authorized by the statute. We are pleased to provide you a copy of the guidance we recently issued to implement the disclosure provision in the statute. We encourage you to share the guidance with your associates and others who may be interested in this policy. We also have enclosed the pertinent part of the statute for your review.

Please note that although the statute permits limited disclosure of free and reduced price eligibility information, the decision on whether to disclose information that will identify children as eligible for free and reduced price meals or free milk is at the discretion of local school and program operators.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on the use of eligibility information.

Sincerely,

Shirley R. Watkins  
Under Secretary  
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Enclosures



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Consumer  
Services

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302 - 1500

**SUBJECT:** Limited Disclosure of Children's Free and Reduced Price Meal or  
Free Milk Eligibility Information (SP 99-3); (CACFP 99-2)

**TO:** State Agencies  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

The Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994, P.L. 103-448, amended Section 9(b)(2)(C) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. 1751(b)(2)(C)) to allow, without consent, limited disclosure of information about free and reduced price meal or free milk eligibility. The disclosure limitations apply to all the Child Nutrition Programs. The statute also specifies a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both, for unauthorized disclosures of free and reduced price meal or free milk eligibility information.

I. What information may be disclosed permissibly without consent?

(The term "persons directly connected" in this section includes Federal, State and local program operators responsible for program administration or program compliance and their contractors.)

A. Disclosing names and eligibility status in accordance with the NSLA.

Determining agencies may disclose, without consent, participants' **names and eligibility status** (whether they are eligible for free meals or free milk or reduced price meals) to persons *directly* connected with the administration or enforcement of the following programs:

1. Federal education programs, such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress.
2. State health or State education programs provided the programs are administered by a State agency or a local education agency.

Representatives of State or local education agencies evaluating the results and compliance with student assessment programs would be covered only to the extent that the assessment program was established at the State, not local level.

3. Federal, State, or local means-tested nutrition programs with eligibility standards comparable to the National School Lunch Program (i.e., food assistance programs to households with income at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, such as the Food Stamp Program or a State or local nutrition program).