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NAEP VALIDITY STUDIES: OPTIMIZING STATE NAEP: ISSUES AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

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Optimizing State NAEP:

Issues and Possible Improvements

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Boston College

Commissioned by the NAEP Validity Studies (NVS) Panel
May 1997

George W. Bohrnstedt, Panel Chair
Frances B. Stancavage, Project Director

The NAEP Validity Studies Panel was formed by the American Institutes for Research under contract with the National Center for Education Statistics. Points of view or opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily represent the official positions of the U.S. Department of Education or the American Institutes for Research.

The NAEP Validity Studies (NVS) Panel was formed in 1995 to provide a technical review of NAEP plans and products and to identify technical concerns and promising techniques worthy of further study and research. The members of the panel have been charged with writing focused studies and issue papers on the most salient of the identified issues.

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Abstract

NAEP has conducted the state assessments in 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996. From the time Congress authorized NAEP's state assessment program, there has been considerable energy expended to evaluate its quality. Now, after the fourth round of state assessments, it is clear that the program is generally successful. Care should be taken to retain the essential benefits of this important national resource, which permits states to compare to national trends and each other. Participation in state NAEP began at a high level (38 states and 2 jurisdictions) and has increased with 44 states and 3 jurisdictions participating in 1996. According to a survey of state testing directors, NAEP has considerable credibility as a highly valid and reliable source of information.

Despite the high regard for state NAEP, today's environment of limited federal and state resources has led to level funding for NAEP and intense scrutiny about how best to optimize all aspects of NAEP including the state component. Because the state component can account for nearly half the budget devoted to NAEP cooperative agreements, the idea of considering how to reduce effort and maximize utility is a good one for state NAEP. This paper addressed the following topics in relation to making state NAEP more efficient.

- *There is need to examine how to reduce the burden for states.* In sum, the primary way to reduce burden is through less testing. Even though combining the state and national samples, or eroding the sample sizes within the states, do not appear to be fruitful ideas for now, research needs to continue towards developing more efficient assessment and sampling procedures. However, the major way to significantly reduce burden most likely will remain conducting state assessments on a relatively infrequent schedule and keeping the number of subjects and grades to a reasonable level. The main challenge will be to maximize the information gained from those assessments.
- *There is a need for a stable assessment schedule.* A consistent schedule of regular state assessments would facilitate participation, maximize the use of NAEP as part of a state's own assessment program, provide ongoing trend data to monitor reform efforts, and make it worthwhile for states to link their own assessments to state NAEP. Considering the resource intensive nature of state NAEP, the schedule should be a manageable one, commensurate with the burden currently required by states.
- *The greatest need is to promote the use of state-NAEP data.* This could involve devoting greater attention to how best to link state assessment and NAEP results, developing more timely and user-friendly reports, and working with the states themselves and other organizations to more effectively address the data needs of different NAEP audiences. NAEP should consider developing a state capacity for special reporting. Promoting use will promote the participation and support necessary for the continued success of state NAEP.

Introduction

Since its inception in 1969, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has monitored our nation's educational progress through periodic assessments in a variety of curriculum areas. During the nearly three decades of NAEP assessments, a number of important innovations have been made in the methods used, but the fundamentals have remained essentially the same. In the early 1990s, however, there was a dramatic increase in NAEP's scope when Congress asked it to also begin providing results at the state level. Initially authorized by Congress on a voluntary and trial basis, the goals of the NAEP state assessments were to:

- Allow comparisons between trends in an individual state's performance and national performance.
- Allow states to be compared directly to one another on an independent measure.

Congress authorized trial state assessments, commonly referred to as the TSA, in 1990 and 1992. Since then, state assessments also were conducted in 1994 and 1996 for a total of four rounds of data collection.

The subjects and grades covered in the state assessments since the inception of the program are listed below:

- 1990 - Mathematics, Grade 8
- 1992 - Mathematics, Grades 4 and 8; Reading, Grade 4
- 1994 - Reading, Grade 4
- 1996- Mathematics, Grades 4 and 8; Science, Grade 8

Essentially, the approach has been to capitalize on the development effort required for the national program by making some of the assessments available for administration by states. State assessments in a given subject area, however, dramatically increase the magnitude of the resources and time required for that assessment by virtue of the sheer number of students involved. There also are political considerations as well as many technical issues to address in maintaining high quality comparative data across the participating states and the nation.

The magnitude of state NAEP is illustrated by table 1, showing the numbers of students and schools participating in the national and state components of NAEP's 1996 assessment. It can be seen that the number of participants in state NAEP substantially exceeds those in the national assessment.

Table 1— Approximate Number of Students and Schools in NAEP’s 1996 Assessment

	Students	Schools
National*	100,000	1,500
State**	350,000	10,000

* Includes two subjects at three grades plus special studies.

** Includes two subjects at grade 8 and one subject at grade 4. Approximately 2,500 students per grade, per subject, per state and 100 schools per grade, per state.

Favorable Reviews for the NAEP State Assessments

In general, a series of congressionally mandated evaluation studies conducted by the National Academy of Education (NAE) have led to favorable reviews for state NAEP (Bohrstedt, Glaser, & Linn, 1992, 1993, 1996). Despite the voluntary nature of state NAEP, there has been high interest from the start, with 38 states and 2 jurisdictions participating in 1990. The NAE found the 1990 TSA was carried out successfully and generally with a high degree of validity. The NAE report on the 1992 TSA found strong support for the TSA in the states. A survey of state testing directors conducted for the NAE as part of the NAE’s 1994 TSA evaluation effort revealed that NAEP has considerable credibility and is thought to be a highly valid and reliable source of information (DeVito, 1996). NAEP’s ambitious frameworks are considered forward looking, and innovative assessment approaches are used. For example, despite considerable controversy over the methods used, the idea of setting performance standards is viewed as an innovation supportive of the goals of the general reform effort. By 1996, participation in the program had grown somewhat from its initial high level, with 44 states and 3 jurisdictions participating.

It appears that the states use NAEP information for a variety of purposes. Primarily, consistent with the original intentions of Congress, the state data provide an **externally developed reference point** that can be used to:

- Make comparisons to national performance, overall and for subgroups, and
- Make comparisons to other states.

These comparisons provide a general indicator of achievement for state policy makers. The data also provide a basis for arguing for more rigor in curriculum and standards, examining curricular strengths and weaknesses, helping to validate state testing programs, and studying item formats.

Becoming More Efficient

Notwithstanding the favorable reception of the state NAEP program, it remains an enormous undertaking for the Federal government and for the states themselves. Today, in an environment of limited Federal resources, the whole of NAEP, including national and state components, is under close scrutiny by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) to reduce costs while maximizing dependability and timeliness (KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, 1996; NAGB, 1996). Even if availability of resources was not a problem, the idea of making cost reductions that do not lower the quality of the program is a good one because it can provide resources to make improvements. By becoming more efficient, state NAEP may be able to do more with the resources that are available.

Understandably, an effort involving as many students and schools as the state NAEP program is very resource intensive. Although costs can vary substantially according to the number of subjects and grades assessed at the state level, an effort involving two subjects at two grade levels could require nearly half of the funds available for NAEP cooperative agreements.

Because of the magnitude of the state assessments, it is important that ongoing efforts to redesign NAEP consider the demands of the state as well as the national component. Such considerations can be complicated by the uneven relationship between the two components, with the state component representing a large proportion of the effort needed, but the national component providing the foundation for NAEP. Even though state NAEP requires a high proportion of the total resources available for NAEP, it uses the materials and procedures developed for the national program. Maintaining a high degree of comparability between the approaches and methods underlying the national and state components has been fundamental to the state program achieving its goals. Therefore, in making changes to national NAEP, it is important to bear in mind any aspects that are to be made available as part of the state program need to be replicable on a very large scale. This need for comparability and large scale replicability goes beyond the instruments and data collection procedures to embrace the full range of assessment activities, including designing comparable samples, obtaining high degrees of participation, endless quality control steps, complex analysis, and a substantial reporting effort.

States also are operating in an environment of reduced resources, and the demands of participation in this voluntary program are substantial. From one perspective, the states have the opportunity to benefit from the Federal investment in NAEP. However, participation in NAEP entails a considerable administrative burden. Participating states must provide sampling information, recruit schools to participate, provide the personnel necessary to implement the data collection activities, and engage in numerous scheduling and record keeping activities.

Since state NAEP is resource intensive for both the Federal government and the participating states, it is important to keep an eye on how state NAEP fits into the redesign effort, identify efficiencies in conducting the state component itself, and most of all, think of ways to promote extended use of the information from this important national resource. The remainder of this paper briefly describes a number of areas that could be examined from the view of optimizing NAEP's state component, including sampling, scheduling, content coverage, and data use.

Efficiency and Sample Sizes

To date, regardless of the source of the recommendations, the modifications made to state NAEP since the initial 1990 trial have increased the comprehensiveness and demands on any given subject area assessment at any given grade, primarily by requiring more inclusive samples (e.g., reporting for private as well as public school students) and involving more of them (e.g., district-level NAEP and international links). A number of pending suggestions continue the pressure toward expanding each individual subject area assessment (e.g., reporting for IEP and LEP students and adopting more stringent guidelines for sample participation rates).

More recently, however, attention has been drawn to the burden represented by the extremely large number of students involved in state assessments. Concerted energy has been given to examining how to reduce the sample sizes for those participating states that also are sampled for national NAEP; especially small states. The small states are hit particularly hard in relation to the large states, and the problem is exacerbated when the number of subject areas is increased. Keith Rust (1996), Bruce Spencer (1996), and others have written on these issues. At this time, however, many obstacles remain in terms of deriving national estimates from state samples. It is technically possible to design samples to do this, either by drawing state samples and supplementing them to obtain a national sample or vice versa. However, there are operational considerations that have no immediate solutions. For example, there are differences in administration procedures between the national and state NAEP assessments that have been addressed by equating the two samples. Using only the state administration procedures would jeopardize links to national trend data. Also, because the state assessments are subsets of the national assessments there are differences in content and operational approaches between the two NAEP components. Finally, since participation by states is voluntary, as is participation by the districts within some of the states, last minute withdrawal by states or districts can occur. In fact, state withdrawal can occur subsequent to data collection and analysis, but prior to reporting. To rely on the same samples for both national and state purposes would require eliminating the flexibility provided by the present approach of maintaining separate samples. That is, the same administration procedures, content, and participation rules would need to apply equally to the states and the nation, all of which would involve costs in training and quality control (or an extremely large professional data collection staff) not to mention extremely unpopular changes in the

NAEP legislation to curtail state's flexibility, and the need to find some way to equalize motivational factors across testing sessions.

Possibly some reductions could be made in state sample sizes, particularly for small states, but this comes at the cost of the quality of the data (Rust, 1996). Another idea for savings involves rethinking the effort expended on collecting data for private schools within the state samples. The biggest savings, however, would come from careful scheduling of the state assessments. Because each one is so costly, the major cost savings come from conducting state assessments on a less frequent schedule and restricting the number of subjects and grades (Forsyth, Hambleton, Linn, Mislavy & Yen, 1996; Rust, 1996).

There are, of course, many trade-offs involved in the state assessment sampling issue. Large sample sizes and frequent assessments are burdensome for NAEP, the states, schools, and most of all the students. However, large sample sizes and high participation rates are necessary to maintain high quality data. More frequent assessments are necessary if policy makers want regular information about trends. States observe that more frequent information about more subject areas is useful for monitoring improvements, particularly in light of the ongoing emphasis on educational reform. States also find the disaggregated data for demographic subpopulations very useful, particularly for gender, type of community, and race/ethnicity. This enables policy makers to make judgments about the relative effectiveness of their educational approaches for different subpopulations of students. Interest is growing in having information about even more subpopulations of students (e.g., districts, IEP students, advanced science students) to provide a basis for informed decision-making. Yet, for each targeted subpopulation, there is a high probability that the NAEP samples will need to be increased. Therefore, reductions or increases in sample sizes must be viewed in terms of the information gained or lost as well as in terms of cost and burden.

Assuming that the demand for high quality data about educational achievement will continue to grow, it is important that research continues about the most efficient sampling approaches for state NAEP. For example, different strategies might be used in large versus small states or in states that have state assessments versus those that do not. The research about burden reduction, however, should not be confined solely to issues of sampling methods. For example, exploring ways to improve the precision of proficiency estimates also might contribute to decreasing sample size (e.g., conditioning on state assessment scores at the student level).

As a related idea, NAEP also could explore ways to capitalize on the large sample sizes used for the state assessments. Whether in one subject area or multiple subject areas, frequent or infrequently, when state assessments do occur, it may be worth considering combining the data from the separate samples to obtain improved estimates for both states and the nation. This idea, also proposed by Rust, would have the possibility of optimizing the use of the data collected for state NAEP because the increased sample sizes would permit more fine-grained analysis at the national and regional levels. Currently,

however, it is difficult to work out the issues related to sample weighting and equating on the rigorous schedules required by NAEP.

A Stable and Manageable Schedule of State Assessments

One of the most important issues facing state NAEP appears to be the need for a stable schedule of assessment administrations. Just as NAEP needs stability from the states for efficient procedures, the states need stability from NAEP. For example, based on his survey of state testing directors, DeVito (1996) observed:

“The most prevalent and deep seated concern of state education agency personnel has to do with the schedule of NAEP, particularly the TSA component. To date, there has been no consistent schedule of TSA content areas of grades.”

The lack of a stable schedule for state NAEP influences data quality because it affects participation at both at the state level and for schools within states. First, the states need advance warning in order to budget the necessary resources to participate in the state NAEP program. In order to plan successfully, the states need information about the scope of the offerings in terms of the number of subjects and grades. Second, advance planning greatly facilitates recruitment of schools and maintenance of high participation rates.

A consistent schedule would enable states to capitalize on state NAEP in particular ways, optimizing its use in relation to their own state assessment programs. Providing the state and NAEP frameworks coincide, states might use NAEP to augment state funded assessment programs or to monitor specific reform efforts. For example, several states, including Colorado, had planned to use state NAEP as part of their efforts in monitoring progress on the State Systemic Initiative projects funded by the National Science Foundation. However, science was not included in the early rounds of the state program as originally projected. DeVito (1996) summarized the issue:

“States have learned not to count on particular grades or subjects to help fill a void in the state assessment role. To show leadership on this issue, NAEP staff should develop a basic assessment plan for the future and stick to it. It may be better to have a less ambitious, yet well articulated structure that can be counted on than to have an unclear potential schedule that will likely not be implemented.”

Beyond improving the quality of NAEP by facilitating planning and participation, it is likely that a regular schedule would dramatically increase use of state NAEP results. The states themselves and other organizations gradually would come to rely on regularly available data to address public issues of accountability and make policy decisions. This reliance could, in turn, lead to a desire for an increase in the supply of state NAEP data and the availability of the resources to provide it.

Keeping to a schedule of regular, frequent assessments for state NAEP, however, presents quite a challenge during times of fiscal uncertainty at the Federal level. Funding needs to be secure for the development, data collection, and reporting phases necessary to maintain the schedule both within and across the particular assessments included in the cycle. Nevertheless, from a cost-benefit point of view, it is crucial to try and set NAEP on a regular track, including state NAEP.

It is equally important that the schedule envisioned for state NAEP be realistic and manageable in terms of state burden and available resources. In its redesign document, NAGB recommends that reading, writing, mathematics, and science at grades 4 and 8 be given priority for state-level assessments.

Considering the need to curtail the states' burden, it is worth noting that by keeping the special needs of the state assessments in mind while redesigning NAEP, the burden on states can be minimized. For example, even if national NAEP moves to annual assessments, this need not be the case for state assessments. State assessments can remain on an every other year schedule by confining the program to a reasonable number of subject areas.

An example of such a schedule is shown in table 2. Like the currently proposed NAGB schedule, this example has two subject areas assessed every other year at the state level. Also, as in the current NAGB proposal, the state assessments are conducted only at grades 4 and 8, and not all are three grades. Although this schedule primarily tries to keep the state component to a manageable level, it also contains other aspects of the NAEP redesign under discussion. For example, whether it be through existing methods or new methods, the example poses "core" portion of each subject area assessment that is a subset or portion of the comprehensive assessment. This subset can be used for measuring trends. The idea is that the core portion could be reassessed and reported with relatively little new or redevelopment effort, and that the analysis and reporting procedures would be already in place. To further reduce state burden, the core portions of assessments also could be made available for use in state NAEP. That is, states not wishing to participate in the comprehensive assessment might participate only in the core portion.

Table 2— Example Assessment Schedule

Year	Comprehensive Assessment†	Core Only for Trends	Core Only for Trends	Focused or Specialist
1	MATHEMATICS*	SCIENCE*	Reading	Advanced Mathematics Science
2	U.S. and World History	Geography	Reading	Arts
3	READING*	WRITING*	Mathematics	—
4	Economics	Civics	Reading	Foreign Languages
5	SCIENCE*	MATHEMATICS*	Reading	Advanced Mathematics/ Science
6	Geography	U.S. and World History	Reading	Arts
7	WRITING*	READING*	Mathematics	—
8	Civics	Economics	Reading	Foreign Languages

† Includes a core component that can be readily reused to measure trends.

* State NAEP—grades 4 and 8 only; shown in boldface type

The three different kinds of assessments involved in the example schedule are described below:

1. **Comprehensive assessments** are very ambitious in scope, similar to the 1996 mathematics and science assessments. A new framework is developed as the foundation of each comprehensive assessment, and many of the assessment items are newly developed. However, each new comprehensive assessment maintains a link to the previous trend assessment in that subject area. Each comprehensive assessment includes coverage of several subareas and extensive questionnaires. One comprehensive assessment is conducted annually, but for any given subject area the comprehensive assessment is on an eight-year cycle. The one comprehensive assessment conducted each year alternates between being conducted only at the national level and at both the national and state levels. Therefore, a comprehensive assessment is available every other year at the state level. The comprehensive assessments at the state level include mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
2. Each comprehensive assessment has a **core** component for measuring **trends**. **Trend assessments** are brought forward as **subsets** of comprehensive assessments so that relatively little new development is needed. Trend assessments are streamlined to provide overall indicators of performance for a curriculum area (no subareas) and results for basic demographic groups, including gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic level, and private/public schools. School

and teacher questionnaires are abbreviated, if not eliminated entirely. Trend assessments stand on their own in years when a comprehensive assessment is not feasible or desirable.

The core components are incorporated into the next redevelopment of a comprehensive assessment in that subject area to maintain constant monitoring of trends. Biennially, together with the comprehensive assessment, a trend assessment is conducted at the state level. These state trend assessments also are in mathematics, reading, science, and writing, paired with the comprehensive assessments in a way to provide states regular information in these four curriculum areas.

3. The purpose of **specialist or focused assessments** is to measure achievement in subject areas studied by only some students, and where there is no expectation that the entire student population would or should have these skills. To be meaningful, the tests need to be given to special target populations where there is reason to believe that the students would have the special knowledge and skills being assessed. This type of assessment is particularly useful in the arts, foreign languages, and the advanced areas included in international assessments.

Focused assessments also provide opportunities for special limited studies such as special topics within subject areas or new assessment methods. Regular use of focused assessments will help ensure that NAEP remains a leader in assessment methods. These types of assessments, however, are not routinely conducted at the state level. They might be made available to states at the states' own cost.

Table 3 shows another perspective of how the example schedule works across assessment cycles. The states would receive trend information in each of mathematics, science, reading, and writing on a four-year cycle. They would be able to report trends every other year in either mathematics and science, or reading and writing at grades 4 and 8. For one of the two subjects being reported biennially, the results could be based on a comprehensive assessment. This schedule therefore provides for regular flow of information to the states, with a burden commensurate to that currently required.

Table 3— Alternative View of Example Assessment Schedule to Illustrate State Assessment Cycle

Subjects	Years							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Math	Comp.		Trend		*Trend		Trend	
History		Comp.				Trend		
Reading	Trend	Trend	*Comp.	Trend	Trend	Trend	*Trend	Trend
Economics				Comp.				Trend
Science	*Trend				*Comp.			
Geography		Trend				Comp.		
Writing			*Trend				*Comp.	
Civics				Trend				Comp.

*Denotes state assessments given every two years beginning with year one.

The example schedule has the following features designed to optimize both national and state NAEP.

Nationally, three subjects are assessed every year, with the comprehensive assessment receiving the greatest redevelopment effort. A comprehensive development effort is expected in one subject or another on an annual basis.

1. State assessments are conducted every other year, and in only two subject areas. If one or both of the subjects is assessed using a core approach, the state burden remains similar to its current level.
2. Not all subjects need to be assessed at all three grades for either state or national NAEP. In particular, state assessments only are conducted at grades 4 and 8.
3. Should additional funding become available, flexibility exists to expand the assessments and conduct additional special focused assessments.

Comprehensiveness of Content Coverage and Background Questionnaires

From the beginning, comprehensiveness has been a hallmark of each assessment included in the TSA. Broad content coverage has been stressed in the NAEP frameworks and specifications for item development. More recently, the ability to maintain broad

content coverage has become more challenging as the types of items specified move increasingly toward longer and more complicated tasks. These tasks use a disproportionate amount of assessment time requiring either longer testing sessions or larger sample sizes (or both) to maintain content coverage.

The states applaud assessment innovations or the direction of more performance-based approaches and the call for more cutting-edge assessment tasks remains strong. Again, however, in an environment of level funding such as that currently faced by NAEP, there are trade-offs to consider. The more elaborate each single assessment is required to be, the fewer assessments it is possible to conduct. It will take longer to score, analyze, and report the information. Also, the more extensive and detailed the available information, the less likely it will be to find the resources necessary to mine the data in-depth and to effectively disseminate such detailed information to the relevant NAEP audiences.

A balance must be maintained between the more efficient multiple-choice and short-answer questions and the more interesting and content valid-extended tasks. In light of the plans for the performance-based arts assessment and the extraordinary energy given to hands-on and in-depth tasks in the 1996 science assessment, there is concern that NAEP may be placing too much emphasis on the less efficient performance-based tasks. It is important to recognize, however, that it is essential for NAEP to continually improve the content validity of the assessments. From the perspective of subject matter specialists and other NAEP audiences, NAEP's reputation as a high-quality program is highly dependent on prominent use of innovative assessment tasks. Also, the appropriate mix of item types is highly dependent on the subject area being assessed, with performance areas like writing, the arts, and scientific investigations requiring performance-based assessment approaches.

There also is a question about the cost effectiveness of the extensive questionnaire information currently being collected by NAEP. Not all NAEP users would reduce the scope of contextual information collected and few recommend eliminating it entirely, but most agree that the information has the potential to be of much greater use to practitioners than it currently is.

Based on the survey of state test directors, DeVito (1996) recommends retaining only the background questions that can be reasonably validated and packaging the results "to encourage insightful conversation that may inform educational reform efforts in the state and the nation, rather than their current reporting mode as appendices to the NAEP reports." In its redesign document, NAGB (1996) notes that the questionnaires asking about teaching practices, teacher preparation, school policies, homework, and television watching—to name a few topics—lead to data analyses that are elaborate, extensive, and complex and reports that are detailed and exhaustive. The Peat Marwick (1996) review found the questionnaires to be well thought out and carefully and clearly worded. However, of two recommendations for technical modifications made in that report, one was "careful delineation and prioritization of the purposes of the NAEP followed by refinement of the background questionnaires." The NCES plans currently under

discussion, include building consensus on a core set of background variables to be collected at various grades and with various subjects (Forgione, 1996).

While the cost savings may not be dramatic (Peat Marwick, 1996), honing the background questionnaires—at least for the state assessments—would dramatically impact the burden on principals and teachers. The scope of the person effort expended on questionnaires in the state assessments is enormous, if one considers that nearly 10,000 principals and as many as 150,000 teachers (approximately 3 to 5 teachers per school per grade) could be spending approximately 20 minutes completing these questionnaires. Empirical studies of the NAEP data and of users of NAEP data should be conducted to determine which contextual variables are most useful. For example, an analysis could be done of recent NAEP reports and secondary analyses of NAEP data to see which variables have been used to date. The survey planned by NCES to collect information from states and other constituents about NAEP implementation, issues, and options also will provide valuable insight into which of the currently reported variables are the most useful to educational decision makers, and which variables they would most like to see included in NAEP analyses. Even with judicious pruning, reporting its extensive background questionnaire data will continue to present a particular challenge for state NAEP. There is a general sense that more analysis could be done with the data and that this information has the potential to be much more useful to practitioners than it currently is.

NAEP as the Norm: Linking State Assessments to NAEP

From a more traditional testing perspective, in a schedule similar to the example given, the NAEP assessments administered every other year at the state level could provide excellent forming samples. In a time of strict fiscal accountability, it may be appropriate for NAEP to give concerted thought on how to best capitalize on this situation. A direct approach, however, is ill-advised. In the direct application of the norm-referenced testing approach, the NAEP trend assessments in all four subject areas would be made available for ongoing administration in intervening years at state option and cost so that states could monitor trends in mathematics, science, reading, and writing on an annual basis if they so desired. Unfortunately, if this approach was successful, it would substantially erode the integrity of NAEP. Security would be a major problem, and states using the same NAEP trend assessments year after year undoubtedly would become susceptible to the “Lake Woebegon” effect plaguing commercial test publishers. Particularly in medium- to high-stakes testing environments, lack of security and direct teaching to the NAEP test would lead to a situation in which all states eventually would be performing above the nation. Essentially, for all intents and purposes, NAEP would be ruined.

As an alternative with the same benefits to states and little risk to NAEP, states could link their own state assessments to state NAEP by giving their own assessments to the

same students participating in state NAEP. The notion of linking has been raised since the inception of state NAEP, but the technical challenges have yet to be completely overcome. One difficulty is obtaining the two sets of scores for the same students. Another major difficulty arises in trying to link tests with differences in content, item format, and motivational levels. The quality of the results based on the linking is dependent on a high degree of congruence between the two measures. However, if individual state assessments (or even parts of them) were more closely aligned with state NAEP, then these difficulties might be reduced.

As research in the area of linking becomes more widespread, it is entirely possible that even more methodological challenges will emerge. NCES presently is conducting research with four states to study the methodology required to link their individual state assessments to NAEP. Also, even after results are obtained, they need to be interpreted with care and monitored across time. For example, the linkings might not hold up over time if state assessments are closely tied to a state curriculum different from that assessed by NAEP and there is considerable teaching to the test.

Despite the many hurdles, research in this area should continue. If such linking could be accomplished successfully, states then could re-administer their own assessments to monitor trends in intervening years and have the additional capability of comparing their results to NAEP. Availability of results would not depend on NAEP, but on the states themselves, increasing the likelihood of fast turn-around time. Using the example schedule as an illustration, the links between individual state assessments and state NAEP could be updated every four years.

The point made in the Design/Feasibility Team Report to NAGB (1996) is well taken, that “NAEP should not be in the business of policing and certifying linkages between NAEP and other assessments. The best way to support these efforts would be to provide clear discussions and outlines of procedures for valid linking approaches, and examples to use as models.” However, the states would seem different than external audiences because they are integral to the NAEP effort. If, as is the case for some states, individual state assessments and state NAEP provide conflicting results for state audiences, why is this? Do the differences relate to the content of the tests, the formats used, or the samples? Taking into account the concentrated efforts toward educational reform taking place in a number of states, it probably would behoove both NAEP and the states to learn as much as possible from each other. Tightening the coherence between NAEP and the states will be a challenge, but in the long run it would provide increased credibility and utility for NAEP. Even though the links between individual state assessments and state NAEP would never be perfect, the benefits may outweigh the concerns.

Need to Promote the Use of State Data

The utility issue is crucial to the continued success of state NAEP. Promoting use promotes participation and this, in turn, increases the likelihood of continued support for the program. Providing a basis for linking state assessment results is only one way to promote use of the state NAEP data. NAEP needs a multi-faceted approach to encourage widespread and correct usage of its data, while minimizing erroneous conclusions. Another way to help reach this goal is by providing timely, informative reports and other useful materials such as the frameworks and items. But, the concept needs to be enlarged by working more closely with users and staging more mediated encounters with the NAEP data, either through technology or structured events.

Two major issues center on the NAEP reports of state assessment results. The first is the length of time taken after data collection to produce the reports and the second is the overall utility of those reports. Apparently most state directors felt that six months or less after data collection should be the goal for reporting results (DeVito, 1996). Given that the assessments are conducted in February and March, the state testing directors felt an effort should be made to release the results in September/October or at least prior to the end of the calendar year in which the assessment was conducted. NAGB also supports releasing NAEP results within six months of the completion of testing. Whether this goal is feasible remains to be seen, since the most time consuming part of the process is the NCES-NAGB review/revision stage—as much as one year out of a two-year process (Peat Marwick, 1996). The Peat Marwick report (1996) also raised serious concerns about the efficiency of two-tier Report Cards, stating that the costs “seem to outweigh the advantages.”

The second suggestion for increasing the use of state NAEP reports involves making them more user-friendly. The DeVito (1996) survey found a preference for reports and materials prepared specifically for use by classroom teachers, principals, superintendents, and local school boards stating that: “Less detailed, targeted pieces should be produced for different audiences to increase the usefulness of the information.”

To help educational policy makers understand the utility of the state NAEP data, it appears that NAEP needs to take better account of the different constituencies that have different needs for NAEP data—national legislators, for example, or local school boards and the general public. NAEP has a major responsibility for providing better information to the public about state-by-state comparisons, and needs to continue its progress in working towards more timely and user-friendly approaches to meet this obligation.

It does, however, seem unrealistic for the states to expect the Federal government to assume responsibility for creating articles and pieces pertinent to a variety of audiences within each state. Perhaps it is time to consider more shared reporting responsibilities between NAEP and the states participating in state NAEP. The federal role might be one of providing initial training and staff development. Encouraging increased

dissemination and use of NAEP results within states would benefit both the states and NAEP, generally. Some states already prepare materials including state NAEP results.

On a pilot basis, NAEP might consider working with several states to produce a series of short publications entitled “Conversations with the States.” One goal would be to produce user-friendly pieces suitable for dissemination to the public nationally and within each state. Another goal would be to develop some pieces targeted toward particular audiences, for example, teachers or school boards. Thus, the “conversation” topics might vary, with some cutting across states and other having more relevance within a particular state. Similarly, some might be for specialized audiences and others for the general public.

Beginning with perhaps three states, NAEP could work with policy makers and practitioners within each of the individual states participating in the pilot. NAEP, perhaps in conjunction with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), could help state education agency personnel use the NAEP data to develop publications for particular use within the context of that state. The pilot states would be responsible for providing individuals within their state to participate in the project and for publishing the materials developed for their own individual state. These materials would be for the state’s own use and would not be subject to NCEES review; the latter involves a lengthy process and would slow down the publication schedule significantly. With some planning, the “within state” materials could be ready for simultaneous release with the initial state NAEP reports.

The pieces developed in working separately with the three pilot states could then become models for use in other states. To facilitate this idea, NAEP might even consider using these “model” pieces to conduct a workshop for states on how to develop shorter targeted pieces for within state use. Based on the work with the pilot states, NAEP would develop a heightened sense of how its data can be better used at the state and local level. NAEP could highlight specific uses of state NAEP within the pilot states in developing brochures and pamphlets for dissemination to both general and targeted audiences across the nation. Such concrete examples of the benefits of state NAEP data would illustrate the importance of this extraordinary program.

Besides collaborating with individual states, there are other organizations with which NAEP could work to help promote the use of state NAEP results. Groups that would likely be interested in working to improve the utility of state NAEP data include the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Council of Greater City Schools, and the National Governors Association. Technology could be used to hold teleconferences sponsored by these organizations as well as to provide policy briefs electronically and to engage in electronic conversations about them. One or more of these groups, might develop a consultation service on the use of state NAEP data in state-level decision making about education.

Teacher's organizations also might be interested. For example, working with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) to create packets for schools that provide individualized information on their performance on specific released items might be useful and might not violate confidentiality. Naturally, the degree of precision associated with such school estimates would need to be explored, but the data might serve as a springboard for developing staff training and information materials. The NCTM could provide advice on which items to feature and provide commentary for teachers about why achievement on the items was important to success in mathematics. The NCTM could also provide information about how to improve performance in the areas represented by the items, if performance was lower than desired by the district or school.

Final Thoughts

Even though the widespread participation in state NAEP attests to the high regard for the program, greater attention to dependability and coherence could substantially increase its utility. Although some refinements in procedures for individual assessments may be in order according to recommendations included here and elsewhere, the primary theme seems to be a greater need to carry through, specifically, in the areas of schedule and dissemination. Everything considered, state NAEP may require a disproportionate amount of resources for the payoff received.

Certainly the quality and integrity of NAEP cannot be jeopardized, and it must continue in the forefront of innovative assessment approaches. Without this foundation of excellence, decision makers and practitioners simply will not use the results. Since, however, state NAEP is receiving generally high marks for credibility, the emphasis in improving this program needs to be on stepping back and looking at broad-based issues. The intent should be to maintain high quality, while trying to increase utility and keeping a strict eye on feasibility. That is, how can state NAEP make the most of its resources? How can it be optimized?

Promoting more use of state NAEP data would appear vital to the continued success of the program. Promoting use equals promoting participation equals promoting support. At least in the short term, it is worth examining the idea of expending proportionately less of the state NAEP resources on data collection and proportionately more on disseminating information about the many uses of the program.

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2000-01	1999 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:99) Field Test Report	Linda Zimbler

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2002-04	Improving Consistency of Response Categories Across NCES Surveys	Marilyn Seastrom
2002-08	A Profile of Part-time Faculty: Fall 1998	Linda Zimbler
Postsecondary Education Descriptive Analysis Reports (PEDAR)		
2000-11	Financial Aid Profile of Graduate Students in Science and Engineering	Aurora D'Amico
Private School Universe Survey (PSS)		
95-16	Intersurvey Consistency in NCES Private School Surveys	Steven Kaufman
95-17	Estimates of Expenditures for Private K-12 Schools	Stephen Broughman
96-16	Strategies for Collecting Finance Data from Private Schools	Stephen Broughman
96-26	Improving the Coverage of Private Elementary-Secondary Schools	Steven Kaufman
96-27	Intersurvey Consistency in NCES Private School Surveys for 1993-94	Steven Kaufman
97-07	The Determinants of Per-Pupil Expenditures in Private Elementary and Secondary Schools: An Exploratory Analysis	Stephen Broughman
97-22	Collection of Private School Finance Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
98-15	Development of a Prototype System for Accessing Linked NCES Data	Steven Kaufman
2000-04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meetings	Dan Kasprzyk
2000-15	Feasibility Report: School-Level Finance Pretest, Private School Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)		
2003-05	PIRLS-IEA Reading Literacy Framework: Comparative Analysis of the 1991 IEA Reading Study and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study	Laurence Ogle
2003-10	A Content Comparison of the NAEP and PIRLS Fourth-Grade Reading Assessments	Marilyn Binkley
Recent College Graduates (RCG)		
98-15	Development of a Prototype System for Accessing Linked NCES Data	Steven Kaufman
2002-04	Improving Consistency of Response Categories Across NCES Surveys	Marilyn Seastrom
Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)		
94-01	Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) Papers Presented at Meetings of the American Statistical Association	Dan Kasprzyk
94-02	Generalized Variance Estimate for Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)	Dan Kasprzyk
94-03	1991 Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) Reinterview Response Variance Report	Dan Kasprzyk
94-04	The Accuracy of Teachers' Self-reports on their Postsecondary Education: Teacher Transcript Study, Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
94-06	Six Papers on Teachers from the 1990-91 Schools and Staffing Survey and Other Related Surveys	Dan Kasprzyk
95-01	Schools and Staffing Survey: 1994 Papers Presented at the 1994 Meeting of the American Statistical Association	Dan Kasprzyk
95-02	QED Estimates of the 1990-91 Schools and Staffing Survey: Deriving and Comparing QED School Estimates with CCD Estimates	Dan Kasprzyk
95-03	Schools and Staffing Survey: 1990-91 SASS Cross-Questionnaire Analysis	Dan Kasprzyk
95-08	CCD Adjustment to the 1990-91 SASS: A Comparison of Estimates	Dan Kasprzyk
95-09	The Results of the 1993 Teacher List Validation Study (TLVS)	Dan Kasprzyk
95-10	The Results of the 1991-92 Teacher Follow-up Survey (TFS) Reinterview and Extensive Reconciliation	Dan Kasprzyk
95-11	Measuring Instruction, Curriculum Content, and Instructional Resources: The Status of Recent Work	Sharon Bobbitt & John Ralph
95-12	Rural Education Data User's Guide	Samuel Peng
95-14	Empirical Evaluation of Social, Psychological, & Educational Construct Variables Used in NCES Surveys	Samuel Peng
95-15	Classroom Instructional Processes: A Review of Existing Measurement Approaches and Their Applicability for the Teacher Follow-up Survey	Sharon Bobbitt
95-16	Intersurvey Consistency in NCES Private School Surveys	Steven Kaufman
95-18	An Agenda for Research on Teachers and Schools: Revisiting NCES' Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
96-01	Methodological Issues in the Study of Teachers' Careers: Critical Features of a Truly Longitudinal Study	Dan Kasprzyk
96-02	Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS): 1995 Selected papers presented at the 1995 Meeting of the American Statistical Association	Dan Kasprzyk
96-05	Cognitive Research on the Teacher Listing Form for the Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk

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96-06	The Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) for 1998-99: Design Recommendations to Inform Broad Education Policy	Dan Kasprzyk
96-07	Should SASS Measure Instructional Processes and Teacher Effectiveness?	Dan Kasprzyk
96-09	Making Data Relevant for Policy Discussions: Redesigning the School Administrator Questionnaire for the 1998-99 SASS	Dan Kasprzyk
96-10	1998-99 Schools and Staffing Survey: Issues Related to Survey Depth	Dan Kasprzyk
96-11	Towards an Organizational Database on America's Schools: A Proposal for the Future of SASS, with comments on School Reform, Governance, and Finance	Dan Kasprzyk
96-12	Predictors of Retention, Transfer, and Attrition of Special and General Education Teachers: Data from the 1989 Teacher Followup Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
96-15	Nested Structures: District-Level Data in the Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
96-23	Linking Student Data to SASS: Why, When, How	Dan Kasprzyk
96-24	National Assessments of Teacher Quality	Dan Kasprzyk
96-25	Measures of Inservice Professional Development: Suggested Items for the 1998-1999 Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
96-28	Student Learning, Teaching Quality, and Professional Development: Theoretical Linkages, Current Measurement, and Recommendations for Future Data Collection	Mary Rollefson
97-01	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1996 Meeting of the American Statistical Association	Dan Kasprzyk
97-07	The Determinants of Per-Pupil Expenditures in Private Elementary and Secondary Schools: An Exploratory Analysis	Stephen Broughman
97-09	Status of Data on Crime and Violence in Schools: Final Report	Lee Hoffman
97-10	Report of Cognitive Research on the Public and Private School Teacher Questionnaires for the Schools and Staffing Survey 1993-94 School Year	Dan Kasprzyk
97-11	International Comparisons of Inservice Professional Development	Dan Kasprzyk
97-12	Measuring School Reform: Recommendations for Future SASS Data Collection	Mary Rollefson
97-14	Optimal Choice of Periodicities for the Schools and Staffing Survey: Modeling and Analysis	Steven Kaufman
97-18	Improving the Mail Return Rates of SASS Surveys: A Review of the Literature	Steven Kaufman
97-22	Collection of Private School Finance Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
97-23	Further Cognitive Research on the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) Teacher Listing Form	Dan Kasprzyk
97-41	Selected Papers on the Schools and Staffing Survey: Papers Presented at the 1997 Meeting of the American Statistical Association	Steve Kaufman
97-42	Improving the Measurement of Staffing Resources at the School Level: The Development of Recommendations for NCES for the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)	Mary Rollefson
97-44	Development of a SASS 1993-94 School-Level Student Achievement Subfile: Using State Assessments and State NAEP, Feasibility Study	Michael Ross
98-01	Collection of Public School Expenditure Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
98-02	Response Variance in the 1993-94 Schools and Staffing Survey: A Reinterview Report	Steven Kaufman
98-04	Geographic Variations in Public Schools' Costs	William J. Fowler, Jr.
98-05	SASS Documentation: 1993-94 SASS Student Sampling Problems; Solutions for Determining the Numerators for the SASS Private School (3B) Second-Stage Factors	Steven Kaufman
98-08	The Redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey for 1999-2000: A Position Paper	Dan Kasprzyk
98-12	A Bootstrap Variance Estimator for Systematic PPS Sampling	Steven Kaufman
98-13	Response Variance in the 1994-95 Teacher Follow-up Survey	Steven Kaufman
98-14	Variance Estimation of Imputed Survey Data	Steven Kaufman
98-15	Development of a Prototype System for Accessing Linked NCES Data	Steven Kaufman
98-16	A Feasibility Study of Longitudinal Design for Schools and Staffing Survey	Stephen Broughman
1999-02	Tracking Secondary Use of the Schools and Staffing Survey Data: Preliminary Results	Dan Kasprzyk
1999-04	Measuring Teacher Qualifications	Dan Kasprzyk
1999-07	Collection of Resource and Expenditure Data on the Schools and Staffing Survey	Stephen Broughman
1999-08	Measuring Classroom Instructional Processes: Using Survey and Case Study Fieldtest Results to Improve Item Construction	Dan Kasprzyk
1999-10	What Users Say About Schools and Staffing Survey Publications	Dan Kasprzyk
1999-12	1993-94 Schools and Staffing Survey: Data File User's Manual, Volume III: Public-Use Codebook	Kerry Gruber
1999-13	1993-94 Schools and Staffing Survey: Data File User's Manual, Volume IV: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Restricted-Use Codebook	Kerry Gruber
1999-14	1994-95 Teacher Followup Survey: Data File User's Manual, Restricted-Use Codebook	Kerry Gruber
1999-17	Secondary Use of the Schools and Staffing Survey Data	Susan Wiley
2000-04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meetings	Dan Kasprzyk

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2000-10	A Research Agenda for the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
2000-13	Non-professional Staff in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Common Core of Data (CCD)	Kerry Gruber
2000-18	Feasibility Report: School-Level Finance Pretest, Public School District Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
2002-04	Improving Consistency of Response Categories Across NCES Surveys	Marilyn Seastrom
Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)		
2001-01	Cross-National Variation in Educational Preparation for Adulthood: From Early Adolescence to Young Adulthood	Elvira Hausken
2001-05	Using TIMSS to Analyze Correlates of Performance Variation in Mathematics	Patrick Gonzales
2001-07	A Comparison of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMSS-R), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Arnold Goldstein
2002-01	Legal and Ethical Issues in the Use of Video in Education Research	Patrick Gonzales

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Achievement (student) - mathematics		
2001-05	Using TIMSS to Analyze Correlates of Performance Variation in Mathematics	Patrick Gonzales
Adult education		
96-14	The 1995 National Household Education Survey: Reinterview Results for the Adult Education Component	Steven Kaufman
96-20	1991 National Household Education Survey (NHES:91) Questionnaires: Screener, Early Childhood Education, and Adult Education	Kathryn Chandler
96-22	1995 National Household Education Survey (NHES:95) Questionnaires: Screener, Early Childhood Program Participation, and Adult Education	Kathryn Chandler
98-03	Adult Education in the 1990s: A Report on the 1991 National Household Education Survey	Peter Stowe
98-10	Adult Education Participation Decisions and Barriers: Review of Conceptual Frameworks and Empirical Studies	Peter Stowe
1999-11	Data Sources on Lifelong Learning Available from the National Center for Education Statistics	Lisa Hudson
2000-16a	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume I	Lisa Hudson
2000-16b	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume II	Lisa Hudson
Adult literacy—see Literacy of adults		
American Indian – education		
1999-13	1993-94 Schools and Staffing Survey: Data File User's Manual, Volume IV: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Restricted-Use Codebook	Kerry Gruber
Assessment/achievement		
95-12	Rural Education Data User's Guide	Samuel Peng
95-13	Assessing Students with Disabilities and Limited English Proficiency	James Houser
97-29	Can State Assessment Data be Used to Reduce State NAEP Sample Sizes?	Larry Ogle
97-30	ACT's NAEP Redesign Project: Assessment Design is the Key to Useful and Stable Assessment Results	Larry Ogle
97-31	NAEP Reconfigured: An Integrated Redesign of the National Assessment of Educational Progress	Larry Ogle
97-32	Innovative Solutions to Intractable Large Scale Assessment (Problem 2: Background Questions)	Larry Ogle
97-37	Optimal Rating Procedures and Methodology for NAEP Open-ended Items	Larry Ogle
97-44	Development of a SASS 1993-94 School-Level Student Achievement Subfile: Using State Assessments and State NAEP, Feasibility Study	Michael Ross
98-09	High School Curriculum Structure: Effects on Coursetaking and Achievement in Mathematics for High School Graduates—An Examination of Data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988	Jeffrey Owings
2001-07	A Comparison of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMSS-R), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Arnold Goldstein
2001-11	Impact of Selected Background Variables on Students' NAEP Math Performance	Arnold Goldstein
2001-13	The Effects of Accommodations on the Assessment of LEP Students in NAEP	Arnold Goldstein
2001-19	The Measurement of Home Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Graders to Questionnaire Items and Parental Assessment of the Invasiveness of These Items	Arnold Goldstein
2002-05	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K), Psychometric Report for Kindergarten Through First Grade	Elvira Hausken

No.	Title	NCES contact
2002-06	The Measurement of Instructional Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Grade Students and Teachers to Questionnaire Items	Arnold Goldstein
2002-07	Teacher Quality, School Context, and Student Race/Ethnicity: Findings from the Eighth Grade National Assessment of Educational Progress 2000 Mathematics Assessment	Janis Brown
Beginning students in postsecondary education		
98-11	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study First Follow-up (BPS:96-98) Field Test Report	Aurora D'Amico
2001-04	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study: 1996-2001 (BPS:1996/2001) Field Test Methodology Report	Paula Knepper
Civic participation		
97-25	1996 National Household Education Survey (NHES:96) Questionnaires: Screener/Household and Library, Parent and Family Involvement in Education and Civic Involvement, Youth Civic Involvement, and Adult Civic Involvement	Kathryn Chandler
Climate of schools		
95-14	Empirical Evaluation of Social, Psychological, & Educational Construct Variables Used in NCES Surveys	Samuel Peng
Cost of education indices		
94-05	Cost-of-Education Differentials Across the States	William J. Fowler, Jr.
Course-taking		
95-12	Rural Education Data User's Guide	Samuel Peng
98-09	High School Curriculum Structure: Effects on Coursetaking and Achievement in Mathematics for High School Graduates—An Examination of Data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988	Jeffrey Owings
1999-05	Procedures Guide for Transcript Studies	Dawn Nelson
1999-06	1998 Revision of the Secondary School Taxonomy	Dawn Nelson
2003-01	Mathematics, Foreign Language, and Science Coursetaking and the NELS:88 Transcript Data	Jeffrey Owings
2003-02	English Coursetaking and the NELS:88 Transcript Data	Jeffrey Owings
Crime		
97-09	Status of Data on Crime and Violence in Schools: Final Report	Lee Hoffman
Curriculum		
95-11	Measuring Instruction, Curriculum Content, and Instructional Resources: The Status of Recent Work	Sharon Bobbitt & John Ralph
98-09	High School Curriculum Structure: Effects on Coursetaking and Achievement in Mathematics for High School Graduates—An Examination of Data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988	Jeffrey Owings
Customer service		
1999-10	What Users Say About Schools and Staffing Survey Publications	Dan Kasprzyk
2000-02	Coordinating NCES Surveys: Options, Issues, Challenges, and Next Steps	Valena Plisko
2000-04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meetings	Dan Kasprzyk
Data quality		
97-13	Improving Data Quality in NCES: Database-to-Report Process	Susan Ahmed
2001-11	Impact of Selected Background Variables on Students' NAEP Math Performance	Arnold Goldstein
2001-13	The Effects of Accommodations on the Assessment of LEP Students in NAEP	Arnold Goldstein
2001-19	The Measurement of Home Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Graders to Questionnaire Items and Parental Assessment of the Invasiveness of These Items	Arnold Goldstein
2002-06	The Measurement of Instructional Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Grade Students and Teachers to Questionnaire Items	Arnold Goldstein
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2000-04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meetings	Dan Kasprzyk
Design effects		
2000-03	Strengths and Limitations of Using SUDAAN, Stata, and WesVarPC for Computing Variances from NCES Data Sets	Ralph Lee
Dropout rates, high school		
95-07	National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988: Conducting Trend Analyses HS&B and NELS:88 Sophomore Cohort Dropouts	Jeffrey Owings
Early childhood education		
96-20	1991 National Household Education Survey (NHES:91) Questionnaires: Screener, Early Childhood Education, and Adult Education	Kathryn Chandler
96-22	1995 National Household Education Survey (NHES:95) Questionnaires: Screener, Early Childhood Program Participation, and Adult Education	Kathryn Chandler
97-24	Formulating a Design for the ECLS: A Review of Longitudinal Studies	Jerry West
97-36	Measuring the Quality of Program Environments in Head Start and Other Early Childhood Programs: A Review and Recommendations for Future Research	Jerry West
1999-01	A Birth Cohort Study: Conceptual and Design Considerations and Rationale	Jerry West
2001-02	Measuring Father Involvement in Young Children's Lives: Recommendations for a Fatherhood Module for the ECLS-B	Jerry West
2001-03	Measures of Socio-Emotional Development in Middle School	Elvira Hausken
2001-06	Papers from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies Program: Presented at the 2001 AERA and SRCD Meetings	Jerry West
2002-05	Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K), Psychometric Report for Kindergarten Through First Grade	Elvira Hausken
Educational attainment		
98-11	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study First Follow-up (BPS:96-98) Field Test Report	Aurora D'Amico
2001-15	Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study: 2000/01 Follow-Up Field Test Methodology Report	Andrew G. Malizio
Educational research		
2000-02	Coordinating NCES Surveys: Options, Issues, Challenges, and Next Steps	Valena Plisko
2002-01	Legal and Ethical Issues in the Use of Video in Education Research	Patrick Gonzales
Eighth-graders		
2001-05	Using TIMSS to Analyze Correlates of Performance Variation in Mathematics	Patrick Gonzales
2002-07	Teacher Quality, School Context, and Student Race/Ethnicity: Findings from the Eighth Grade National Assessment of Educational Progress 2000 Mathematics Assessment	Janis Brown
Employment		
96-03	National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88) Research Framework and Issues	Jeffrey Owings
98-11	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study First Follow-up (BPS:96-98) Field Test Report	Aurora D'Amico
2000-16a	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume I	Lisa Hudson
2000-16b	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume II	Lisa Hudson
2001-01	Cross-National Variation in Educational Preparation for Adulthood: From Early Adolescence to Young Adulthood	Elvira Hausken
Employment – after college		
2001-15	Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study: 2000/01 Follow-Up Field Test Methodology Report	Andrew G. Malizio
Engineering		
2000-11	Financial Aid Profile of Graduate Students in Science and Engineering	Aurora D'Amico
Enrollment – after college		

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2001-15	Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study: 2000/01 Follow-Up Field Test Methodology Report	Andrew G. Malizio
Faculty – higher education		
97-26	Strategies for Improving Accuracy of Postsecondary Faculty Lists	Linda Zimbler
2000-01	1999 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:99) Field Test Report	Linda Zimbler
2002-08	A Profile of Part-time Faculty: Fall 1998	Linda Zimbler
Fathers – role in education		
2001-02	Measuring Father Involvement in Young Children's Lives: Recommendations for a Fatherhood Module for the ECLS-B	Jerry West
Finance – elementary and secondary schools		
94-05	Cost-of-Education Differentials Across the States	William J. Fowler, Jr.
96-19	Assessment and Analysis of School-Level Expenditures	William J. Fowler, Jr.
98-01	Collection of Public School Expenditure Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
1999-07	Collection of Resource and Expenditure Data on the Schools and Staffing Survey	Stephen Broughman
1999-16	Measuring Resources in Education: From Accounting to the Resource Cost Model Approach	William J. Fowler, Jr.
2000-18	Feasibility Report: School-Level Finance Pretest, Public School District Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
Finance – postsecondary		
97-27	Pilot Test of IPEDS Finance Survey	Peter Stowe
2000-14	IPEDS Finance Data Comparisons Under the 1997 Financial Accounting Standards for Private, Not-for-Profit Institutes: A Concept Paper	Peter Stowe
Finance – private schools		
95-17	Estimates of Expenditures for Private K-12 Schools	Stephen Broughman
96-16	Strategies for Collecting Finance Data from Private Schools	Stephen Broughman
97-07	The Determinants of Per-Pupil Expenditures in Private Elementary and Secondary Schools: An Exploratory Analysis	Stephen Broughman
97-22	Collection of Private School Finance Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
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Geography		
98-04	Geographic Variations in Public Schools' Costs	William J. Fowler, Jr.
Graduate students		
2000-11	Financial Aid Profile of Graduate Students in Science and Engineering	Aurora D'Amico
Graduates of postsecondary education		
2001-15	Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study: 2000/01 Follow-Up Field Test Methodology Report	Andrew G. Malizio
Imputation		
2000-04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meeting	Dan Kasprzyk
2001-10	Comparison of Proc Impute and Schafer's Multiple Imputation Software	Sam Peng
2001-16	Imputation of Test Scores in the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988	Ralph Lee
2001-17	A Study of Imputation Algorithms	Ralph Lee
2001-18	A Study of Variance Estimation Methods	Ralph Lee
Inflation		
97-43	Measuring Inflation in Public School Costs	William J. Fowler, Jr.
Institution data		
2000-01	1999 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:99) Field Test Report	Linda Zimbler
Instructional resources and practices		
95-11	Measuring Instruction, Curriculum Content, and Instructional Resources: The Status of Recent Work	Sharon Bobbitt & John Ralph

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1999-08	Measuring Classroom Instructional Processes: Using Survey and Case Study Field Test Results to Improve Item Construction	Dan Kasprzyk
International comparisons		
97-11	International Comparisons of Inservice Professional Development	Dan Kasprzyk
97-16	International Education Expenditure Comparability Study: Final Report, Volume I	Shelley Burns
97-17	International Education Expenditure Comparability Study: Final Report, Volume II, Quantitative Analysis of Expenditure Comparability	Shelley Burns
2001-01	Cross-National Variation in Educational Preparation for Adulthood: From Early Adolescence to Young Adulthood	Elvira Hausken
2001-07	A Comparison of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMSS-R), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Arnold Goldstein
International comparisons – math and science achievement		
2001-05	Using TIMSS to Analyze Correlates of Performance Variation in Mathematics	Patrick Gonzales
Libraries		
94-07	Data Comparability and Public Policy: New Interest in Public Library Data Papers Presented at Meetings of the American Statistical Association	Carrol Kindel
97-25	1996 National Household Education Survey (NHES:96) Questionnaires: Screener/Household and Library, Parent and Family Involvement in Education and Civic Involvement, Youth Civic Involvement, and Adult Civic Involvement	Kathryn Chandler
Limited English Proficiency		
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2001-11	Impact of Selected Background Variables on Students' NAEP Math Performance	Arnold Goldstein
2001-13	The Effects of Accommodations on the Assessment of LEP Students in NAEP	Arnold Goldstein
Literacy of adults		
98-17	Developing the National Assessment of Adult Literacy: Recommendations from Stakeholders	Sheida White
1999-09a	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: An Overview	Alex Sedlacek
1999-09b	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: Sample Design	Alex Sedlacek
1999-09c	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: Weighting and Population Estimates	Alex Sedlacek
1999-09d	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: Development of the Survey Instruments	Alex Sedlacek
1999-09e	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: Scaling and Proficiency Estimates	Alex Sedlacek
1999-09f	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: Interpreting the Adult Literacy Scales and Literacy Levels	Alex Sedlacek
1999-09g	1992 National Adult Literacy Survey: Literacy Levels and the Response Probability Convention	Alex Sedlacek
1999-11	Data Sources on Lifelong Learning Available from the National Center for Education Statistics	Lisa Hudson
2000-05	Secondary Statistical Modeling With the National Assessment of Adult Literacy: Implications for the Design of the Background Questionnaire	Sheida White
2000-06	Using Telephone and Mail Surveys as a Supplement or Alternative to Door-to-Door Surveys in the Assessment of Adult Literacy	Sheida White
2000-07	"How Much Literacy is Enough?" Issues in Defining and Reporting Performance Standards for the National Assessment of Adult Literacy	Sheida White
2000-08	Evaluation of the 1992 NALS Background Survey Questionnaire: An Analysis of Uses with Recommendations for Revisions	Sheida White
2000-09	Demographic Changes and Literacy Development in a Decade	Sheida White
2001-08	Assessing the Lexile Framework: Results of a Panel Meeting	Sheida White
Literacy of adults – international		
97-33	Adult Literacy: An International Perspective	Marilyn Binkley
Mathematics		
98-09	High School Curriculum Structure: Effects on Coursetaking and Achievement in Mathematics for High School Graduates—An Examination of Data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988	Jeffrey Owings
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2002-07	Teacher Quality, School Context, and Student Race/Ethnicity: Findings from the Eighth Grade National Assessment of Educational Progress 2000 Mathematics Assessment	Janis Brown
Parental involvement in education		
96-03	National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88) Research Framework and Issues	Jeffrey Owings
97-25	1996 National Household Education Survey (NHES:96) Questionnaires: Screener/Household and Library, Parent and Family Involvement in Education and Civic Involvement, Youth Civic Involvement, and Adult Civic Involvement	Kathryn Chandler
1999-01	A Birth Cohort Study: Conceptual and Design Considerations and Rationale	Jerry West
2001-06	Papers from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies Program: Presented at the 2001 AERA and SRCD Meetings	Jerry West
2001-19	The Measurement of Home Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Graders to Questionnaire Items and Parental Assessment of the Invasiveness of These Items	Arnold Goldstein
Participation rates		
98-10	Adult Education Participation Decisions and Barriers: Review of Conceptual Frameworks and Empirical Studies	Peter Stowe
Postsecondary education		
1999-11	Data Sources on Lifelong Learning Available from the National Center for Education Statistics	Lisa Hudson
2000-16a	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume I	Lisa Hudson
2000-16b	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume II	Lisa Hudson
Postsecondary education – persistence and attainment		
98-11	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study First Follow-up (BPS:96-98) Field Test Report	Aurora D'Amico
1999-15	Projected Postsecondary Outcomes of 1992 High School Graduates	Aurora D'Amico
Postsecondary education – staff		
97-26	Strategies for Improving Accuracy of Postsecondary Faculty Lists	Linda Zimbler
2000-01	1999 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:99) Field Test Report	Linda Zimbler
2002-08	A Profile of Part-time Faculty: Fall 1998	Linda Zimbler
Principals		
2000-10	A Research Agenda for the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
Private schools		
96-16	Strategies for Collecting Finance Data from Private Schools	Stephen Broughman
97-07	The Determinants of Per-Pupil Expenditures in Private Elementary and Secondary Schools: An Exploratory Analysis	Stephen Broughman
97-22	Collection of Private School Finance Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
2000-13	Non-professional Staff in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Common Core of Data (CCD)	Kerry Gruber
2000-15	Feasibility Report: School-Level Finance Pretest, Private School Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
Projections of education statistics		
1999-15	Projected Postsecondary Outcomes of 1992 High School Graduates	Aurora D'Amico
Public school finance		
1999-16	Measuring Resources in Education: From Accounting to the Resource Cost Model Approach	William J. Fowler, Jr.
2000-18	Feasibility Report: School-Level Finance Pretest, Public School District Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman

No.	Title	NCES contact
Public schools		
97-43	Measuring Inflation in Public School Costs	William J. Fowler, Jr.
98-01	Collection of Public School Expenditure Data: Development of a Questionnaire	Stephen Broughman
98-04	Geographic Variations in Public Schools' Costs	William J. Fowler, Jr.
1999-02	Tracking Secondary Use of the Schools and Staffing Survey Data: Preliminary Results	Dan Kasprzyk
2000-12	Coverage Evaluation of the 1994-95 Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey	Beth Young
2000-13	Non-professional Staff in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Common Core of Data (CCD)	Kerry Gruber
2002-02	Locale Codes 1987 - 2000	Frank Johnson
Public schools – secondary		
98-09	High School Curriculum Structure: Effects on Coursetaking and Achievement in Mathematics for High School Graduates—An Examination of Data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988	Jeffrey Owings
Reform, educational		
96-03	National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88) Research Framework and Issues	Jeffrey Owings
Response rates		
98-02	Response Variance in the 1993-94 Schools and Staffing Survey: A Reinterview Report	Steven Kaufman
School districts		
2000-10	A Research Agenda for the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
School districts, public		
98-07	Decennial Census School District Project Planning Report	Tai Phan
1999-03	Evaluation of the 1996-97 Nonfiscal Common Core of Data Surveys Data Collection, Processing, and Editing Cycle	Beth Young
School districts, public – demographics of		
96-04	Census Mapping Project/School District Data Book	Tai Phan
Schools		
97-42	Improving the Measurement of Staffing Resources at the School Level: The Development of Recommendations for NCES for the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)	Mary Rollefson
98-08	The Redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey for 1999-2000: A Position Paper	Dan Kasprzyk
1999-03	Evaluation of the 1996-97 Nonfiscal Common Core of Data Surveys Data Collection, Processing, and Editing Cycle	Beth Young
2000-10	A Research Agenda for the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
2002-02	Locale Codes 1987 – 2000	Frank Johnson
2002-07	Teacher Quality, School Context, and Student Race/Ethnicity: Findings from the Eighth Grade National Assessment of Educational Progress 2000 Mathematics Assessment	Janis Brown
Schools – safety and discipline		
97-09	Status of Data on Crime and Violence in Schools: Final Report	Lee Hoffman
Science		
2000-11	Financial Aid Profile of Graduate Students in Science and Engineering	Aurora D'Amico
2001-07	A Comparison of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMSS-R), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Arnold Goldstein
Software evaluation		
2000-03	Strengths and Limitations of Using SUDAAN, Stata, and WesVarPC for Computing Variances from NCES Data Sets	Ralph Lee
Staff		
97-42	Improving the Measurement of Staffing Resources at the School Level: The Development of Recommendations for NCES for the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS)	Mary Rollefson
98-08	The Redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey for 1999-2000: A Position Paper	Dan Kasprzyk

No.	Title	NCES contact
Staff – higher education institutions		
97–26	Strategies for Improving Accuracy of Postsecondary Faculty Lists	Linda Zimbler
2002–08	A Profile of Part-time Faculty: Fall 1998	Linda Zimbler
Staff – nonprofessional		
2000–13	Non-professional Staff in the Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS) and Common Core of Data (CCD)	Kerry Gruber
State		
1999–03	Evaluation of the 1996–97 Nonfiscal Common Core of Data Surveys Data Collection, Processing, and Editing Cycle	Beth Young
Statistical methodology		
97–21	Statistics for Policymakers or Everything You Wanted to Know About Statistics But Thought You Could Never Understand	Susan Ahmed
Statistical standards and methodology		
2001–05	Using TIMSS to Analyze Correlates of Performance Variation in Mathematics	Patrick Gonzales
2002–04	Improving Consistency of Response Categories Across NCES Surveys	Marilyn Seastrom
Students with disabilities		
95–13	Assessing Students with Disabilities and Limited English Proficiency	James Houser
2001–13	The Effects of Accommodations on the Assessment of LEP Students in NAEP	Arnold Goldstein
Survey methodology		
96–17	National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 1996 Field Test Methodology Report	Andrew G. Malizio
97–15	Customer Service Survey: Common Core of Data Coordinators	Lee Hoffman
97–35	Design, Data Collection, Interview Administration Time, and Data Editing in the 1996 National Household Education Survey	Kathryn Chandler
98–06	National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88) Base Year through Second Follow-Up: Final Methodology Report	Ralph Lee
98–11	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study First Follow-up (BPS:96–98) Field Test Report	Aurora D’Amico
98–16	A Feasibility Study of Longitudinal Design for Schools and Staffing Survey	Stephen Broughman
1999–07	Collection of Resource and Expenditure Data on the Schools and Staffing Survey	Stephen Broughman
1999–17	Secondary Use of the Schools and Staffing Survey Data	Susan Wiley
2000–01	1999 National Study of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF:99) Field Test Report	Linda Zimbler
2000–02	Coordinating NCES Surveys: Options, Issues, Challenges, and Next Steps	Valena Plisko
2000–04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meetings	Dan Kasprzyk
2000–12	Coverage Evaluation of the 1994–95 Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey	Beth Young
2000–17	National Postsecondary Student Aid Study:2000 Field Test Methodology Report	Andrew G. Malizio
2001–04	Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study: 1996–2001 (BPS:1996/2001) Field Test Methodology Report	Paula Knepper
2001–07	A Comparison of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMSS-R), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)	Arnold Goldstein
2001–11	Impact of Selected Background Variables on Students’ NAEP Math Performance	Arnold Goldstein
2001–13	The Effects of Accommodations on the Assessment of LEP Students in NAEP	Arnold Goldstein
2001–19	The Measurement of Home Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Graders to Questionnaire Items and Parental Assessment of the Invasiveness of These Items	Arnold Goldstein
2002–01	Legal and Ethical Issues in the Use of Video in Education Research	Patrick Gonzales
2002–02	Locale Codes 1987 - 2000	Frank Johnson
2002–03	National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1999–2000 (NPSAS:2000), CATI Nonresponse Bias Analysis Report.	Andrew Malizio

No.	Title	NCES contact
2002-06	The Measurement of Instructional Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Grade Students and Teachers to Questionnaire Items	Arnold Goldstein
2003-03	Education Longitudinal Study: 2002 (ELS: 2002) Field Test Report	Jeffrey Owings
Teachers		
98-13	Response Variance in the 1994-95 Teacher Follow-up Survey	Steven Kaufman
1999-14	1994-95 Teacher Followup Survey: Data File User's Manual, Restricted-Use Codebook	Kerry Gruber
2000-10	A Research Agenda for the 1999-2000 Schools and Staffing Survey	Dan Kasprzyk
2002-07	Teacher Quality, School Context, and Student Race/Ethnicity: Findings from the Eighth Grade National Assessment of Educational Progress 2000 Mathematics Assessment	Janis Brown
Teachers – instructional practices of		
98-08	The Redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey for 1999-2000: A Position Paper	Dan Kasprzyk
2002-06	The Measurement of Instructional Background Indicators: Cognitive Laboratory Investigations of the Responses of Fourth and Eighth Grade Students and Teachers to Questionnaire Items	Arnold Goldstein
Teachers – opinions regarding safety		
98-08	The Redesign of the Schools and Staffing Survey for 1999-2000: A Position Paper	Dan Kasprzyk
Teachers – performance evaluations		
1999-04	Measuring Teacher Qualifications	Dan Kasprzyk
Teachers – qualifications of		
1999-04	Measuring Teacher Qualifications	Dan Kasprzyk
Teachers – salaries of		
94-05	Cost-of-Education Differentials Across the States	William J. Fowler, Jr.
Training		
2000-16a	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume I	Lisa Hudson
2000-16b	Lifelong Learning NCES Task Force: Final Report Volume II	Lisa Hudson
Variance estimation		
2000-03	Strengths and Limitations of Using SUDAAN, Stata, and WesVarPC for Computing Variances from NCES Data Sets	Ralph Lee
2000-04	Selected Papers on Education Surveys: Papers Presented at the 1998 and 1999 ASA and 1999 AAPOR Meetings	Dan Kasprzyk
2001-18	A Study of Variance Estimation Methods	Ralph Lee
Violence		
97-09	Status of Data on Crime and Violence in Schools: Final Report	Lee Hoffman
Vocational education		
95-12	Rural Education Data User's Guide	Samuel Peng
1999-05	Procedures Guide for Transcript Studies	Dawn Nelson
1999-06	1998 Revision of the Secondary School Taxonomy	Dawn Nelson