



March 23, 2018

Dr. Peggy Carr
Acting Commissioner
National Center for Education Statistics
Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street, NW
Room 4061
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Dr. Carr,

State leaders appreciate the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) as the longstanding common assessment metric used across the country. As a membership organization representing state leaders, the Council of Chief State School Officers also greatly values this measure as it continues to serve as an important way for our organization to better understand and analyze student academic progress over time at the national level. Just as important is the state-level data that NAEP provides. Consistent with the strategic vision set by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) of increasing the focus on NAEP as “its value as a resource to impact student achievement,” we support and encourage states to continue to request and receive additional data so they can better understand and use state-by-state NAEP scores as another tool to drive decision-making.

The 2018 NAEP results are an important year for states across the country. State chiefs have supported NAGB’s decision to transition to a digitally-based assessment, which is aligned with the work underway in many states to shift to next-generation assessments. As states have worked through this transition and CCSSO has supported them in these efforts, we can appreciate that this is a significant undertaking with several challenges but also many benefits. We applaud the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for its deliberate and thoughtful process over the past several years to make this a seamless and transparent transition to a new testing platform that allowed for the continuation of our ability, as a country, to look at long-term trends in academic progress.

As part of that effort, states appreciate that NCES took the extra time necessary to analyze the full impact of the transition to the digitally-based assessment on the results at the national level before the public release. We believe this critical consideration of the impact of the transition to a digitally-based assessment is equally important at the state level. To ensure states are best equipped to fully understand this year’s results, we encourage you and the team at NCES to work with state chiefs and share with them any relevant information and data available related to the transition and its impact on state-level scores, in a timely manner. In this way, states can more fully and accurately understand their statewide data and use it to drive decision-making this year and in future years. We believe this will continue to advance our shared goal to demonstrate NAEP’s value as a resource to drive toward improved outcomes for all students.

We appreciate your consideration and ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,

Carissa Moffat Miller
Executive Director

Cc: Hon. James Blew, U.S. Department of Education
Dr. Bill Bushaw, National Assessment Governing Board
John White, Louisiana State Department of Education