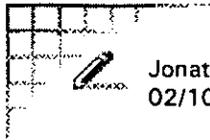


**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 020 - Folder 009**

**Education - NAEP Scores**



Jonathan H. Schnur  
02/10/99 10:18:43 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP, Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP

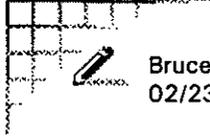
Subject: draft statement from the President on NAEP scores -- feel free to page me if you need. i am leaving my office.

Here is a draft statement on the NAEP scores. As I mentioned, the VP's office thinks the President should *not* put out a statement because it would undermine the VP's message today and that this reflects prior discussions between Pat Ewing and Sosnick. I told Pat Ewing to call Bruce to discuss further. Anyway, the draft statement below reflects where the VP and Riley statements on this today. The national Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) will portray a somewhat more mixed picture. NCES will report the positive news --that average scores in reading have increased in 4th, 8th, and 12th grades between 1994 and 1998. But they will also report that only 8th grade scores have increased since 1992, and that 4th and 12th grade scores have merely returned to 1992 levels. They will also report that while higher percentages of 8th grade students scored at or above the basic and proficient level in 1998 than 1994, there were no significant changes in the percentage of 4th graders reaching these levels. More 12th graders scored at the advanced and proficient levels in 1998 than 1994, but the percentage of 12th graders scoring at or above the basic level has increased since 1994 but are still below 1992 levels. Secretary Riley still feels strongly that we should portray this as encouraging news, not overstate it, and call for accelerating progress in improving education and enacting the Clinton-Gore education agenda. )

"Today, Vice President Gore and Secretary Riley are holding a press conference on new results published today by the National Center for Education Statistics. The 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress "Reading Report Card for the Nation" shows encouraging news. For the first time, average reading scores have improved in each of three grades measured -- 4th, 8th, and 12th grade -- between 1994 and 1998. These gains are small but significant. This nation is headed in the right direction, but we must pick up the pace of our progress. That's why Congress needs to enact my agenda to improve education -- to ensure that we end social promotion, end the use of unqualified teachers, turn around failing schools, have orderly classrooms, and report to parents on the progress of every school. We also need to work together across party lines to provide support for expanded after-school and summer programs and build on last year's down payment to hire more well-prepared teachers to reduce class size in the early grades where children

*wants the basics + learn to read.*

Edue - NAEP scores



Bruce N. Reed  
02/23/99 12:46:22 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP, Jonathan H. Schnur/OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Mike\_cohen @ ed.gov @ inet, Broderick Johnson/WHO/EOP

Subject: class size

Any way we could use this earlier for class size?

State Reading Results: On March 4, DOEd will conduct a news conference to issue NAEP's state-level reading scores and a special report. This release follows up the nationwide numbers released at a February 10 press conference with Secretary Riley and the Vice President.

Date: 02/10/99 Time: 11:24

bStatement by NEA President Bob Chase on the 1998 Reading Report

To: National Desk, Education Writer  
Contact: Gabrielle Lange, 202-822-7296,  
or Kathleen Lyons, 202-822-7213,  
both of the National Education Association

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Following is a statement by NEA President Bob Chase on the 1998 Reading Report Card for the Nation:

''The 1998 Reading Report Card based on the latest test scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reveals that our nation's public schools are on the right path. The nationwide testing of fourth, eighth, and twelfth grades represents a commitment to high standards, and the challenging NAEP test is our best yardstick to measure student performance in reading, our most precious resource.

''While we as a nation can take pride in this achievement, we must not lose sight that many students still have some distance to travel in improving their reading skills. Achievement gaps between white students and minorities have decreased, but much work still needs to be done to improve the achievement of Black and Hispanic students. Our nation can not afford to leave anyone behind.

''We're heartened by the finding that students are watching less television and reading more in school and at home. This is part of the reason why the NAEP scores are up.

''The National Education Association and its 2.4 million members very clearly recognize the link between student achievement and reading. That's why NEA is targeting literacy as one of its primary objectives. We are working with communities and more than 10 million children throughout the U.S. in our annual Read Across America celebration on March 2, so that we can help shed a spotlight on the importance of reading. All of us -- teachers, school employees, parents, and the community -- must come together to reinforce the message that reading is every child's passport to a better future.''

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The NEA is the nation's largest professional employee organization, representing more than 2.4 million elementary and secondary teachers, college faculty, school administrators, educational support personnel, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.

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/U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/

APNP-02-10-99 1141EST

Date: 02/10/99 Time: 11:18

bChairman Goodling Statement on 1998 NAEP Reading Report Card

To: National Desk, Education Writer

Contact: Jay Diskey or Bill McCarthy, 202-225-4527,

both of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Following is a statement today by Rep. Bill Goodling (R-Pa.), chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, on the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Report Card:

STATEMENT ON CHAIRMAN BILL GOODLING

on the 1998 NAEP Reading Report Card

''Reading is the most important skill children need to succeed, but unfortunately we learned again today that American children are making little progress. The findings of the 1998 Reading Report Card from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show us that reading achievement at the 4th-, 8th- and 12th-grade levels is essentially flat. How can this be? We live in an age drenched in media and information, but many of our children can't read. Every parent hearing news of this report should pull the plug on the family TV and begin reading with their children every night.

''This reading report card will inevitably spur the call for new federal education programs, but that may not be the answer. Since 1994 the federal government has spent more than \$42 billion on Title I remedial education programs funded by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We also have spent \$5 billion on federal literacy programs during that same time. It looks like this money has led to nothing but mediocrity and more education bureaucracy.

''The federal government must do three things: First, encourage family literacy programs such as Even Start. Second, re-direct federal education resources to help train teachers. My new Reading Excellence Act, which passed last year, will help train teachers do a better job of teaching reading. This response -- not the Clinton Administration's America Reads approach of putting semi-trained volunteers in the classroom -- is a better strategy. Finally, send dollars directly to the classroom -- not federal regulations, red tape and bureaucracy. On Thursday, I will introduce H.R. 2, the Dollars to the Classroom Act, which will help send federal funds directly to the classroom where teaching and learning occur.''

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/U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/

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