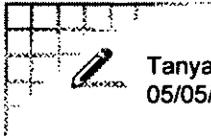


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 020 - Folder 023

**Education - Voluntary National
Tests**



Tanya E. Martin
05/05/99 04:12:47 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP@EOP
cc: Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP@EOP, Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP@EOP, Bethany Little/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: Statement on governors testing compact

Statement on Achieve's announcement that a group of governors and corporate leaders will create a new 8th grade math test -- and teacher training and lesson materials -- to help U.S. students perform as well as their peers in other countries. {Note: Education is being careful not to describe the assessments as "high-quality", but is framing their comments as "supportive of the goal of high-quality curriculum and assessments."}

I applaud the news of this partnership with the goal of promoting high-quality curriculum, instruction and tests to improve student performance in math. We must do everything we can to help our children master the basics. And in this increasingly interdependent economy, we need to provide parents, teachers and students with common measures of student achievement. This step by Achieve reaffirms my long-standing belief that states want -- and will take advantage of -- voluntary tests that allow them to compare their students' achievement to common rigorous standards. I welcome the efforts of Achieve and others who are undertaking efforts to improve education.