

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer,  
National Assessment Governing Board,  
Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW,  
Washington, DC, 20002-4233,  
Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The  
National Assessment Governing Board  
is established under section 412 of the  
National Education Statistics Act of  
1994 (Title IV of the Improving  
America's Schools Act of 1994) (Public  
Law 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate  
policy guidelines for the National  
Assessment of Educational Progress.  
The Board is responsible for selecting  
subject areas to be assessed, developing  
assessment objectives, identifying  
appropriate achievement goals for each  
grade and subject tested, and  
establishing standards and procedures  
for interstate and national comparisons.  
Under Public Law 105-78, the National  
Assessment Governing Board is granted  
exclusive authority over developing  
Voluntary National Tests pursuant to  
contract number RJ97153001 and is  
required to review within 90 days (i.e.,  
by February 11, 1998) and modify the  
contract to the extent the Board  
determines necessary; if the contract  
cannot be modified to the extent the  
Board determines necessary, the  
contract shall be terminated, and a new  
contract negotiated.

On January 9, 1998 the National  
Assessment Governing Board's Special  
Committee to Review the Voluntary  
National Tests Development Contract  
will hold a closed meeting by  
teleconference. The purpose of the  
meeting is for the NAGB Special  
Committee to review the Test  
Development Contract, to formulate its  
recommendations to the NAGB for  
modification or termination and  
recompetition of the Development  
Contract for the Voluntary National  
Tests. This information relates to the  
source selection criteria by which  
government contracts may be modified  
or awarded. Not only would the  
disclosure of such data implicate  
proscriptions set forth in the Federal  
Acquisition Regulations, but also such  
disclosure would significantly frustrate  
a proposed agency action. Specifically,  
disclosure of the Subcommittee's  
discussion prematurely, including  
contract specifications and government  
cost estimates, could affect private  
decisions made by the contractor which  
might damage the financial interests of  
the government as a whole, by, for  
example, increasing the costs to the  
government, and might make it  
impossible for the two sides to reach

agreement. Such matters are protected  
by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of  
Title 5 U.S.C.

A summary of the activities of this  
closed meeting and other related  
matters, which are informative to the  
public and consistent with the policy of  
the Section 5 U.S.C. 552b, will be  
available to the public within 14 days  
after the meeting. Records are kept of all  
Board proceedings and are available for  
public inspection at the U.S.  
Department of Education, National  
Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825,  
800 North Capitol Street, NW,  
Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00  
p.m.

**Roy Truby,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment  
Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-34004 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### National Assessment Governing Board Meeting

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The National Assessment  
Governing Board (NAGB), US  
Department of Education, is announcing  
two public hearings on the Voluntary  
National Tests (VNT). These hearings  
are being conducted pursuant to Public  
Law 105-78, which gives NAGB  
"exclusive authority over all policies,  
direction, and guidelines for developing  
voluntary national tests."

Public and private parties and  
organizations with an interest in the  
Voluntary National Tests for 4th grade  
reading and 8th grade mathematics are  
invited to present written and oral  
testimony. The purpose of the hearings  
is to gather recommendations on the test  
specifications or blueprint for the  
proposed VNT based on the National  
Assessment of Educational Progress  
(NAEP) in 4th grade reading and 8th  
grade mathematics. The proposed tests  
will be individualized versions of  
NAEP, and the Board intends to ensure  
that they are fully consistent with  
NAEP's content and performance  
standards. In carrying out its  
responsibilities, the Board plans to  
consult widely and wishes to receive a  
broad range of input and views. We  
encourage your participation. Results of  
the hearings are particularly important  
as they will provide broad public input  
to the Governing Board for on  
specifications for the Voluntary  
National Tests.

**DATES:** The dates of the public hearings  
have been set as follows:

- January 21, 1998 in Washington,  
DC.

- January 27, 1998 in Chicago, IL.  
On each day, the reading hearing will  
begin at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 12:00  
noon, and the mathematics hearing will  
begin at 1:30 p.m. and adjourn at 4:00  
p.m. You are invited to present either  
oral and/or written testimony. Oral  
presentations should not exceed five  
minutes. Written testimony should be  
mailed to the address below no later  
than January 31, 1998: Aspen Systems  
Corporation, 2277 Research Boulevard,  
Mail Stop 4-D, Rockville, Maryland  
20850, Attn: Munira Mwalimu.

Please include your name, address,  
and any organization you may  
represent. All testimony will become  
part of the public record and will be  
considered by the Governing Board in  
deciding on specifications for the  
proposed national tests, which will be  
designed to show whether individual  
students can meet NAEP standards for  
basic, proficient, or advanced  
performance. Presenters may also  
register online at [www.nagb.org](http://www.nagb.org) or by  
calling (800) 638-2785 between 9 a.m.  
and 5 p.m. EST.

Locations:

January 21

The Capital Hilton, 16th and K Streets  
NW, Washington, DC 2036, (202) 393-  
1000.

January 27

Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S.  
Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605,  
(312) 922-4400.

### Written Statements

Written statements may be submitted  
for the public record in lieu of oral  
testimony no later than January 31,  
1998. These statements should be sent  
directly to Aspen Systems (see  
aforementioned address) in the  
following format:

*I. Issues and Questions Addressed:*  
Identify the issue(s) and question(s) to  
which the testimony is directed. For  
example, "Specifications for 4th grade  
Voluntary National Test in reading."

*II. Summary:* Briefly summarize the  
major points and recommendations  
presented in the testimony.

*III. Discussion:* The narrative should  
provide information, points of view and  
recommendations that will enable the  
Governing Board to consider all factors  
relevant to the question(s) the testimony  
addresses. Respondents are encouraged  
to limit this section of their written  
statements to ten (10) pages. The  
discussions may be appended with  
documents of any length providing  
further explanation.

### Hearings Objectives and Procedures

The National Assessment Governing Board seeks participation in the hearings from a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations to receive recommendations regarding the reading and mathematics specifications for the Voluntary National Tests at grade 4 in reading and grade 8 in mathematics. The schedule of speakers shall be such as to provide a broad spectrum of viewpoints and interests, while being contained to a practical amount of time. The goal of the hearings is to provide a medium for maximum input and guidance from the public to include teachers, principals, school board members, curriculum specialists, local school administrators, parents, and concerned citizens.

The Governing Board will provide a brief background to the hearings, with the majority of the time being devoted to presentations by scheduled speakers. To assist in appropriately scheduling speakers, testimony should include the following information:

- (1) Name, address, and telephone number of each person to appear.
- (2) Affiliation (if any).
- (3) A brief statement of the issues and/or concerns that will be addressed.
- (4) Whether a written statement will be submitted for the record.

Individuals who do not register in advance will be permitted to register and speak at the meeting in order of registration, if time permits. Speakers should plan to limit their total remarks to no more than five (5) minutes.

While it is anticipated that all persons desiring to do so will have an opportunity to speak, time limits may not allow this to occur. The Governing Board will make the final determination on the selection and scheduling of speakers.

However, all written statements presented at the hearings will be accepted and incorporated into the public record. Written statements received after January 31, 1998 will be accepted; however, inclusion in the public record cannot be guaranteed. Governing Board members will preside at each of the hearings. The proceedings will be audiotaped. On request, the hearings will be signed for the hearing-impaired, and a bilingual speaker (Spanish-English) can be made available on site.

### Additional Information

Additional information on the Voluntary National Tests can be obtained at by contacting Mary Crovo, National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 825,

Washington, DC 20002-4233, Telephone: 202-357-6938 or NAGB's web site at [www.nagb.org](http://www.nagb.org).

### Steps After Hearing

The Governing Board will review and analyze all comments and opinions received in response to this announcement. Results of the testimony will be used by the National Assessment Governing Board to determine the specifications for the Voluntary National Tests in reading and mathematics. The Board plans to take action on the specifications in March 1998. A record of all the proceedings will be kept at the National Assessment Governing Board offices, 800 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC 20002, and will be available for public inspection.

**Roy Truby,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-34005 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of Teleconference meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming teleconference meeting of Subject Area Committees 1 and Subject Area Committee #2 of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**DATES:** January 8, and 9, 1998.

**TIME:** January 8, Subject Area Committee #1, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, (open); January 9, Subject Area Committee #2, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., (open).

**LOCATION:** National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

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1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994), (Pub. L. 103-382).

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On January 8 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, the Subject Area Committee #1 of the National Assessment Governing Board will hold a teleconference meeting to discuss Committee and staff Voluntary National Tests reviews for reading. On January 9 between the hours of 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Subject Area Committee #2 will meet to discuss Committee and staff reviews of the Voluntary National Tests for math. Because these are teleconference meetings, facilities will be provided so the public will have access to the Committee's deliberations.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Roy Truby,**

*Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-34006 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of General Counsel; Preparation of Report to Congress on Price-Anderson Act

**AGENCY:** Office of General Counsel, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of inquiry concerning preparation of report to Congress on the Price-Anderson Act.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (the "Department" or "DOE") is