

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 276

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 6, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Urges United States Department of Education to conduct National Assessment of Educational Progress in 2021.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department
2 of Education to conduct the National Assessment of Educational
3 Progress in 2021.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, On November 25, 2020, the Commissioner for Education
6 Statistics in the United States Department of Education announced
7 that, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school
8 operations, the National Center for Education Statistics would be
9 postponing the National Assessment of Educational Progress
10 (NAEP) until 2022; and

11 **WHEREAS**, It was the opinion of the commissioner that, with many
12 schools switching to distance learning or reducing the number of
13 visitors to school buildings for in-person or hybrid scheduling, the
14 NAEP would be unable to produce sufficiently valid and reliable
15 estimates of student abilities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, By postponing the assessment for one year, the
17 commissioner believed it would provide sufficient time for public
18 health conditions to improve; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The NAEP, often referred to as “the nation’s report card,”
20 is a biennial assessment of student competencies in areas such as
21 arts, civics, economics, geography, mathematics, reading, science,
22 technology, history, and writing in grades four, eight, and twelve;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, A representative sample of students is taken from all 50
25 states with the results being used to conduct comprehensive
26 comparisons of student achievement across different states, certain
27 school districts, and demographic groups; and

28 **WHEREAS**, This data allows parents, educators, and policymakers to
29 identify ways to improve the delivery of education in the United
30 States; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the
32 delivery of education to students across the country and exacerbated
33 many of the inequities experienced by underserved students before
34 the pandemic in areas such as technology, academic support, food
35 security, and mental health; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Under normal circumstances, postponement of the NAEP
37 would still have allowed for the tracking of slow-moving changes
38 in student achievement and development of appropriate responses
39 to those trends; and

40 **WHEREAS**, In light of COVID-19 school closures, however, the need
41 for NAEP data on student achievement becomes more urgent as
42 preliminary evidence indicates that millions of students have
43 already experienced severe learning loss over the past year; and

44 **WHEREAS**, Without sufficient educational data, parents, school
45 administrators, policymakers, and educators will be unable to
46 develop solutions to address COVID-19 learning loss; and

47 **WHEREAS**, Given the potentially harmful consequences to the
48 development of our students, it is critically important to collect

1 valid and reliable educational data through administration of the
2 NAEP in 2021; now, therefore,

3
4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
5 *Jersey:*

6
7 1. This House urges the United States Department of Education
8 to conduct the National Assessment of Educational Progress in
9 2021 in order to assess the extent and severity of student learning
10 loss caused by COVID-19 school closures.

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12 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
13 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
14 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of
15 Education, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States
16 Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House
17 of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this
18 State.

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21 STATEMENT

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23 This resolution urges the United States Department of Education
24 to conduct the National Assessment of Educational Progress
25 (NAEP) in 2021. On November 25, 2020, the Commissioner for
26 Education Statistics in the United States Department of Education
27 announced that, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on
28 schools, the National Center for Education Statistics would be
29 postponing the NAEP until 2022. By postponing the assessment for
30 one year, the commissioner believed it would provide sufficient
31 time for public health conditions to improve.

32 The NAEP, often referred to as “the nation’s report card,” is a
33 biennial assessment of student competencies in areas such as arts,
34 civics, economics, geography, mathematics, reading, science,
35 technology, history, and writing in grades four, eight, and twelve.
36 A representative sample of students is taken from all 50 states with
37 the results being used to conduct comprehensive comparisons of
38 student achievement across different states, certain school districts,
39 and demographic groups. This data allows parents, educators, and
40 policymakers to identify ways to improve the delivery of education
41 in the United States

42 The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the delivery of
43 education to students across the country and exacerbated many of
44 the inequities experienced by underserved students before the
45 pandemic in areas such as technology, academic support, food
46 security, and mental health. Under normal circumstances,
47 postponement of the NAEP would still have allowed for the
48 tracking of slow-moving changes in student achievement and

1 development of appropriate responses to those trends. However, in
2 light of COVID-19 school closures, the need for NAEP data on
3 student achievement becomes more urgent as preliminary evidence
4 indicates that millions of students have already experienced severe
5 learning loss over the past year. Without sufficient educational
6 data, parents, school administrators, policymakers, and educators
7 will be unable to develop solutions to address COVID-19 learning
8 loss. Given the potentially harmful consequences to the
9 development of our students, it is critically important to collect
10 valid and reliable educational data through administration of the
11 NAEP in 2021.