



Council of the Great City Schools
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. ♦ Suite 702 ♦ Washington, D.C. ♦ 20004
<http://www.cgcs.org>

FOR RELEASE
April 10, 2008

CONTACT: Henry Duvall
(202) 393-2427 or hduvall@cgcs.org

Seven More Urban School Districts Step Up to National Test

Baltimore, Detroit, Fresno, Louisville, Miami, Milwaukee, Philadelphia Volunteer

WASHINGTON, April 10 -- The Council of the Great City Schools joins the National Assessment Governing Board today in announcing seven more urban districts volunteering to be assessed by a rigorous national test in fourth and eighth grades.

Now there will be 18 urban school districts, up from 11, participating in the trial urban National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), considered *The Nation's Report Card*.

The seven districts represent Baltimore, Detroit, Fresno, Louisville, Miami, Milwaukee and Philadelphia in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), and will begin national testing in 2009. They were selected among 10 urban districts applying for TUDA.

"These districts join 11 others to reaffirm their determination to raise student performance, assess the effect of their reforms and compare themselves to their big-city counterparts in other states," says Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council, a coalition of the nation's largest urban public school districts.

In 2000, the Council approached the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for NAEP, with the idea of urban districts volunteering for the national test. The Council also collaborated with NAGB to determine eligibility criteria for TUDA expansion, secure congressional appropriations, and recruit urban districts for 2009.

Six school districts -- Atlanta, Chicago, the District of Columbia, Houston, Los Angeles and New York City -- set the initial benchmark for the first-ever TUDA, participating in the 2002 NAEP in fourth- and eighth-grade reading and writing.

Later, four more districts -- Austin, Boston, Charlotte and San Diego -- joined TUDA for national assessments in reading, mathematics, writing and science since 2002.

#