NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS, DESIGN & METHODOLOGY
MEETING AGENDA

Friday, November 20, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 am EDT

Howard

8:30 – 8:35 am	**Welcome and Session Overview** *Scott Marion, Chair*	
8:35 – 9:30 am	**Plans for Multi-Stage Testing (MST) (CLOSED)** *Enis Dogan, NCES*	Attachment A
9:30 – 10:30 am	**COSDAM Priorities for 2027 and Beyond** *Scott Marion* *Danielle Gonzales, Vice Chair*	

Multi-Stage Testing Plans for NAEP
(Closed Session)

November 20, 2026

Goal

The purpose of this session is for COSDAM members to be informed of the plans for a multi-stage adaptive testing (MST) design for reading and math, and to provide COSDAM the opportunity to offer input early in the process.

Overview

Enis Dogan from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will present an overview of the design plans for MST for reading and math, and the studies planned leading up to operational use. COSDAM members are encouraged to ask questions and offer input for NCES to consider as they finalize plans. This session will be closed because it will include preliminary data not yet available to the public.

Background

MST is a type of adaptive testing in the assessment content adjusts based on how the student performed in prior stages. All students receive a predetermined router block of items, and performance on this block dictates the level of difficulty of their next block(s). NAEP is moving towards MST to improve precision and the student test-taking experience. When students encounter more items that are aligned to their abilities, it allows more precision in estimating their true score. In addition, encountering an assessment that is better aligned to a student's ability may elicit better student motivation.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) began studying MST for reading and math in 2022 with initial field trials. These plans were put on pause in early 2025, and studies will resume for the 2028 NAEP Reading and Math administrations to determine the feasibility of operational use beginning in 2030.