



## NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **ANALYSIS OF STATE NAEP DATA SHOWS GOOD NEWS IN MATH, INCREASING GAPS IN READING**

*New Analysis Contrasts Widening Gaps in Reading with Improvements in Mathematics*  
**GOALS PANEL TO HOLD BRIEFING**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 2, 2001) – The National Education Goals Panel will release a report on Monday, April 9 that shows that states are making more progress in mathematics achievement than in reading. The report, titled *Raising Student Achievement and Reducing Gaps*, looks at state-level student performance over time in reading and mathematics, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The data show general improvement in mathematics but widening gaps in reading performance between students in the top and bottom quartiles. This report provides a more complete picture of state educational performance than do many analyses of NAEP data that emphasize average scores or increases at the proficient and advanced levels.

The National Education Goals Panel will host an in-depth briefing to discuss *Raising Achievement and Reducing Gaps* this Thursday, April 5 at the Washington, D.C. offices of Hager Sharp, Inc. Experts from the Panel, as well as the report's author, will be on hand to explain the report, their methodology, findings and the significance of their conclusions. They will also discuss how the findings in the report change individual state performance figures previously reported from NAEP.

**WHAT:** National Education Goals Panel Report Release  
*Raising Achievement and Reducing Gaps*\*  
Background Briefing  
**RSVP by Wednesday, April 4, noon\***

**WHO:** Emily Wurtz, Acting Executive Director  
John Barth, Senior Education Associate  
Paul E. Barton, report author

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 5, 2001  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. EST

**WHERE:** Offices of Hager Sharp Inc.  
1090 Vermont Avenue, NW (corner of Vermont and L)  
Suite 300, Large Conference Room  
Washington, D.C.  
202-842-3600 x 222

*\*Please call media contact Brian Turmail to request advanced embargoed copy and/or RSVP.*

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