

**STATEMENT BY SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT
OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS RESULTS**

Washington, D.C. – Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy released the following statement on the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP):

“The NAEP results released today demonstrate the urgent need for a greater focus on improving our nation’s middle and high schools. We need individualized help for students, the creation of smaller learning communities, opportunities for students to pursue college level work as soon as possible, and alternative school models for students at risk of dropping out. We also need to ensure that standards at the high school level are aligned with expectations of colleges and employers. To keep America competitive in today’s economy, we must provide the rigorous curriculum and resources needed to ensure students graduate ready to succeed.”

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