

February 19, 2014

Dr. Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301-3860

Dear Commissioner Barry:

It has come to my attention that there is some question regarding a stated position by Measured Progress about New Hampshire's options for statewide assessment in the coming year. Our consistent message has always been that we would support the Department of Education in implementing whatever approach it chooses. If the question is whether we could build a test from available NECAP items, the answer is that we could, but with several caveats. Any communication to parties outside the DOE, NECAP, and Measured Progress team would have stopped at that.

Here are the details about the "additional NECAP test" possibility. The last administration under the NECAP contract was last fall, 2013. Because it was the last year of the contract, embedded field testing of items for future operational tests was not accomplished, so we used only enough forms to accommodate equating items. Thus, items available for further operational testing would be limited in number, including ones field tested in previous years and not selected for use in past operational tests (far from a set of committee favorites) and the equating items. Any tests pulled together from these items would be highly unlikely to match the NECAP test specifications in terms of balance of representation, range of knowledge, depth of knowledge, etc. In fact, no one has even done an inventory to determine what items are left and what they measure. Additionally, all NECAP items were developed to address the NECAP grade level expectations, not the Common Core.

Apparently, the NECAP states had discussed a "Plan C" (as described above) as a backup should the assessment consortia (Smarter Balanced and PARCC) not be ready for testing on time. As the progress of the consortia was monitored, it was determined that Plan C would not be needed. As always, Measured Progress stands ready to assist the Department in any way it can, but I want to make it clear that we cannot produce NECAP assessments aligned with the Common Core in time for the 2015 testing.

I hope this clarifies both our general position regarding testing options and the issues that would exist if additional NECAP tests were needed. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,



Martin S. Borg
President and CEO

cc: Paul Leather
Heather Gage