

THE Center for Education Reform



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 920 • Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-822-9000
Fax 202-822-5077

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Contact: Terri Bogert

PRESS ALERT

TAXPAYERS DEMAND REFORMS IN EDUCATION

(Washington, D.C.) -- The "report card" on school achievement, the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), is slated to be released tomorrow. Among the findings--kids in many states are doing worse in reading proficiency than previous assessments show.

One of the most significant findings was the decline in the average reading proficiency of twelfth-grade students since 1992. For fourth and eighth graders, there have been no marked improvements.

Meanwhile, taxpayers have had enough discouraging news about the quality of education. Hundreds are expected to descend on the Capitol Building in Austin, Texas on Monday, May 1 to show support for the Education Reform bill that is being considered there and is backed by the Governor, members of both parties, and thousands of business, civic and education leaders.

This Texas omnibus Education Reform measure enhances local control and accountability, provides greater parental choice, establishes more focused academic requirements and strengthens discipline in the school system.

The Texas rally, scheduled for 12 noon at the Capitol, is one of dozens of such demonstrations nationwide on behalf of fundamental change in the nation's schools.

For more information, please call the Center for Education Reform, a national non-profit clearinghouse for reforms, research and action in education, at (202) 822-9000.