



National Coalition For Literacy

Adult Literacy Media Alliance ◦ American Institute for Research ◦ American Library Association ◦ Association of Adult Literacy Professional Developers ◦ Center for Literacy Studies, University of Tennessee ◦ Commission on Adult Basic Education ◦ Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy ◦ GED Testing Service ◦ Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy and the Goodling Institute for Research, Pennsylvania State University ◦ International Reading Association ◦ Literacy USA ◦ National Center for Family Literacy ◦ National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy ◦ National Center on Adult Literacy, University of Pennsylvania ◦ National Council of State Directors of Adult Education ◦ ProLiteracy Worldwide ◦ Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education ◦ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. ◦ Voice of Adult Literacy United for Education ◦ World Education

Mr. Grover J. (Russ) Whitehurst
Director, Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
555 New Jersey Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20208-5500

October 14, 2005

Dear Mr. Whitehurst,

The National Coalition for Literacy (NCL) and its member organizations respectfully, but urgently, request that your agency take immediate steps to release the 2003 **National Assessment of Adult Literacy** (NAAL) report. According to the NCES website, the reports were due to be released from January 2004 to May 2005, yet no reports have been released as of October 2005.

(<http://nces.ed.gov/naal/design/data02.asp>)

Currently, the adult education field, literacy practitioners, policy makers, and the media are using the data reported in the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS). The 1992 NALS data is sorely outdated and does not accurately convey the immediate, compelling, and changing literacy needs in the United States.

The release and dissemination of the 2003 NAAL survey data will help the adult education field, legislators, and other policy makers at the federal and state level make informed decisions about funding levels and service options for adult education and family literacy programs.

I would sincerely appreciate a response to my letter that includes the planned date of release of the 2003 NAAL. Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please feel free to call upon me if I can be of any assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Lipschultz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y" at the end.

Dale Lipschultz
President, National Coalition for Literacy

cc:

Sandra Baxter, Director, National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)
Beto Gonzalez, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE)
Cheryl Keenan, Director, Division of Adult and Vocational Education