



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Institute of Education Sciences

National Board for Education Sciences

November 5, 2008

Grover J. (Russ) Whitehurst
Director
Institute of Education Sciences
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20208-5500

Dear Dr. Whitehurst:

This letter transmits the report of the National Board for Education Sciences (The Board) evaluating the performance of the Institute of Education Sciences (The Institute, IES) from the Institute's inception in 2002 to date. The Board concludes that in a relatively brief period of time, the Institute has made exceptional progress in improving the rigor and relevance of education research in our nation.

The framework for the Institute's non-ideological, high-quality work was wisely established by Congress in the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (The Act). The Act is due for reauthorization. Because the Act has generated such strong results, the Board is recommending its rapid reauthorization with a set of modest improvements meant to improve its clarity and make the legislation stronger.

The Board's evaluation of IES, our recommendations regarding the reauthorization of the Act, and our recommendations for the improvement of IES are detailed with supporting data in this report. Our main findings are also summarized in a brief executive summary.

This report is required in Section 116 of the Education Sciences Reform Act. In addition to you, we have sent it directly to Secretary Spellings, Senators Enzi and Kennedy, and Representatives McKeon and Miller. Please feel free to contact me directly or through the Board's Executive Director, Norma Garza, if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss these matters or the Board's work. Our contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Robert Granger, Ed.D.
Chair
National Board for Education Sciences

Contact Information:

Robert Granger, Ed.D.
President
William T. Grant Foundation
570 Lexington Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10022-6837
212-752-0071

Norma Garza
Executive Director
National Board for Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
Institute of Education Sciences
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20208
202-219-2195