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## **FAX ALERT**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **GETTING 'RITING WRONG**

#### *A Statement on the Results of the National Writing Assessment*

By Jeanne Allen  
President of the Center for Education Reform

**(September 28, 1999)** The National Assessment Governing Board today released the results of the 1998 writing assessment by NAEP, also known as the Nation's Report Card.

Sadly, American students are still performing below expected levels in writing achievement. These measurements are not surprising given the atmosphere of too many schools in which accountability is lacking.

Writing skills are essential for demonstrating knowledge in any subject matter. While concern for education has been elevated nationwide, we cannot relax and assume the job of educating our children is getting done sufficiently. Today's results tell us otherwise. When 75 percent of American children are not writing even up to grade level, it only reinforces that the current system has failed them miserably.

Policymakers should review textbook adoption procedures, free teachers and schools from district bureaucracy and institute consequences for failing schools. Only then will we get all 3-R's right.

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