

ProLiteracy Policy Update

A publication of ProLiteracy Worldwide

December 6, 2005

National Assessment of Adult Literacy Results to be Released 12/15

ProLiteracy has received confirmation from the U.S. Department of Education that the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) report will be released on Thursday, Dec. 15. This is the first update of adult literacy skills in the U.S. in more than 10 years. The report will be released to the news media at a 9:30 a.m. news conference in Washington, D.C. and to literacy stakeholder representatives at a briefing at 1:30 p.m. A live online chat session will be open to the public at 3 p.m. EST and questions and responses will be posted to the [NAAL Web site](#).

ProLiteracy will have representatives in Washington on Dec. 15 and will issue analysis as soon as possible following the release of the report. ProLiteracy representatives, program directors, and adult learners also will be available for telephone interviews and reactions. **Please contact Rochelle Cassella to arrange an interview (315-422-9121, ext. 353; 315-345-3222, mobile).** During the following week, ProLiteracy will co-host a live Web cast in partnership with the California state library system to discuss the report.

According to Sheida White at the National Center for Education Statistics, the NAAL report will contain the following information:

- A description of five categories of adult literacy: Below Basic, Basic, Intermediate, Proficient, and Non-literate in English
- Estimates of the population of adults in each category in the U.S.
- Sample tasks from the survey corresponding to each category
- The 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey data recalculated using the NAAL methodology for purposes of comparison

Data from the six states that purchased additional sample data also will be released on Dec. 15 (Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, and Oklahoma). The report will NOT contain state-by-state or other small area estimates for the remaining 44 states.

For background information on the NAAL survey and methodology, please visit www.nces.ed.gov/, or visit the public policy update section of ProLiteracy's Web site and read the Public Policy Update dated July 8, 2005.