New Education Secretary Named
President Elect Obama has announced his nomination for Education Secretary, Arne Duncan of Chicago schools. To read more about this at the Washington Post, click [here](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breakingnews/articles/2008/12/16/education?mprint=true\&region=local\&section=bnews\&r=1\&em).  

Topical Call on Parental Consent
On February 26, 2009 at 2:00 pm Eastern time, NAME’s Education and Research Committee is offering a Topical Call on Parental Consent. This call is open to all current members of NAME. Watch your email for registration information. There is no cost for this call. The call will provide a review of Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in relation to the consent issue. This will be followed by very brief overviews of the requirements in a variety of states as well as the procedures in several Local Education Agencies (LEAs). The call will then be opened to discussion from the participants. Join us for what should be an enthusiastic and thoughtful dialogue.

NAME Looks to Dec. Media to Discern Patterns and Trends:
“…schools alone could not close the racial achievement gap and urging new investments in school-based health clinics and other social programs to help poor students learn.”

“In selecting former Sen. Tom Daschle as his secretary of health and human services, President-elect Barack Obama has chosen an advocate of expanding health information technology as one part of a comprehensive health reform program.”

“He [Barack Obama] advocated a greater emphasis on prevention and expanding participation in the government-subsidized Medicare and Medicaid programs.”

“The report …imploring more school districts to file the necessary, albeit labor intensive, paperwork to receive Medicaid reimbursement to some special education costs.”

Health Policy