

Facts for Principals

NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States.

- ▶ Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.
- ▶ NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. States have their own unique assessments with different content standards. The same NAEP assessment is administered in every state, providing a common measure of student achievement.
- ▶ Depending on the type of NAEP assessment that is administered, the data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).
- ▶ Students, teachers, and principals who participate in NAEP are asked to complete contextual questionnaires that provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that may be related to students' learning.

“The NAEP representatives do everything they can to ensure the assessment isn’t burdensome to our school, and they provide helpful resources for principals, teachers, and students. By participating, we contribute valuable information about what our country’s students know and can do.”

– Matthew G. Gonzales, Assistant Principal, Smoky Hill High School, Cherry Creek Schools

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative assessment of what our nation’s students know and can do in subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation’s Report Card.

As principals, you are essential partners in NAEP. You make an important contribution by selecting and empowering a NAEP school coordinator, meeting with teachers and students who will participate in the assessment, and encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

In 2015, NAEP assessments will be administered in mathematics, reading, and science. Each student will take NAEP in one subject only, and NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools on assessment day. Schools will only need to provide space for the assessment and desks or tables.

The NAEP 2015 Program

- ▶ **Subjects:** mathematics, reading, and science
- ▶ **Grades:** 4, 8, and 12
- ▶ **Results:** national, state, and TUDA results for grades 4 and 8; only national results for grade 12



It's important to know that...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. Students in grades 4 and 8 are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years and in other subjects in alternating years. Grade 12 students are assessed in a variety of subjects, and results are typically released at the national level. In 2002, NAEP began the TUDA program, which measures what students know and can do in some of the nation's large urban districts. In 2015, 21 districts will participate and receive district-level NAEP results in mathematics, reading, and science at grades 4 and 8. NAEP does not report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality.

From the development of frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation. NAEP is a trusted resource that measures student progress and helps inform policy decisions that improve education in the United States.

NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction. It takes approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities, including transition time and directions. They are also asked to complete the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment but should encourage them to do their best. NAEP representatives provide significant support to your district's schools by working with the designated coordinator in each school to organize assessment activities.

Special studies are also conducted periodically. In 2015, American Indian and Alaska Native students participating in the NAEP mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8 will also be included in the National Indian Education Study (NIES). NIES describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States and its connection with native culture.

Students will participate in NIES by completing the NAEP mathematics or reading assessment and a short questionnaire. Teachers and school administrators will also be asked to complete a questionnaire.

A small number of students who take NAEP may also be selected to answer additional contextual questions for other special studies.

NAEP reports on results for different demographic groups rather than for individual students or schools. NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process to ensure that the schools and students selected are representative of schools and students across the United States. To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, NAEP allows a broad range of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners.

Released NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/landing.aspx> to see how students' performance compares nationally on specific items. Released NAEP items generally come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data.

School staff can also:

- ▶ view results for the nation over time,
- ▶ compare results for various demographic groups, and
- ▶ access information designed for teachers, students, and parents.

Visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> to access this information and more.



Get NAEP on the go with the *NAEP Results* mobile app!