**Talking Points**

**Principals to Teachers**

**What is NAEP?**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment that shows what students across the country know and can do in various subjects. It is different from our state assessments and even the SAT and ACT because it represents high school students across the country, not just those here in our state or those who plan to go on to college.

**Why should I encourage my students to participate?**

NAEP is an important and integral part of education in the United States. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation’s Report Card. Encouraging your students to participate and do their best gives them the opportunity to show how well our nation’s students perform.

* Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
* NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.
* NAEP data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, and select urban districts.
* Teachers can use sample NAEP questions and scoring guides as a resource for understanding student performance.

**What do I have to do?**

Your students will need to be out of class for about 120 minutes for the assessment. You do not have to do anything to prepare for the assessment; you just need to release students from class and encourage them to do their best. Each student represents thousands of other high school students across the nation, so it is important that they participate and do their best.