NAEP 2018
Facts for Districts

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. While 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. NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

▸ To provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that may be related to students' learning, students, teachers, and principals who participate in NAEP are asked to complete survey questionnaires.

"The NAEP representatives were informative and provided specific instructions when administering the assessment. Their professionalism and knowledge before the assessment ensured that the students had a positive experience with NAEP."

- Amneris Montalvo, NAEP School Coordinator, Citrus Grove Middle School, Miami, FL

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing, as well as civics, geography, technology and engineering literacy, and U.S. history. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card.

District staff play an essential role in NAEP. Superintendents and district staff can work closely with principals to explain the importance of the assessment to teachers and participating students. When students take part in the assessment and give their best effort, NAEP gets the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. The table below shows which subjects will be assessed in 2018. National results will be released for the civics, geography, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy assessments—information collected from pilots is used to prepare for future NAEP assessments.

The NAEP 2018 Program (January 29 to March 9, 2018)

Grade	Subject	Format		
		Tablet	Laptop	Paper/Pencil
Grade 4	Reading (Special Studies)	√		
	Science (Pilot)	√		
Grade 8	Civics, Geography and U.S. History	√		√
	Technology and Engineering Literacy		√	
	Reading (Special Study)	√		
	Science (Pilot)	√		
Grade 12	Mathematics (Pilot)	√		
	Reading (Pilot/Special Study)	√		
	Science (Pilot)	√		

For more information about NAEP, visit www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard

It's important to know...

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 two years and in other subjects in alternating years. In 2002, NAEP began the Trial Urban District Assessment program, which measures student achievement in some of the nation's large urban districts. Students, teachers, and schools are asked to complete a survey questionnaire in order to provide valuable contextual information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom.

Special studies are also conducted periodically. They are administered as part of NAEP and often involve special data collection procedures in the field, in-depth analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures. For more information about NAEP special studies, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From the development of assessment 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 reports on results for different demographic groups rather than for individual students or schools. Within a school, just some of the student population participates, and student responses are combined with those from other participating students to produce the results. Student responses on NAEP are confidential*, and the privacy of each participating school and student is essential. Names of participating students never leave the school and are not associated with the digital or paper test booklet after the student takes the assessment.

NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process. This process ensures 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.

NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction. Including transition time, directions, and the completion of a survey questionnaire, it takes approximately 120 minutes for students to complete digital assessments and up to 90 minutes for students to complete paper-and-pencil assessments. Each student will be assessed in one format and one subject only. 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. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools on assessment day. Schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment, desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location—schools will not need to provide internet access.

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

District and school staff can also

▸ view results, depending on the type of assessment, for the nation, states, and selected urban districts 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.

*The information each student provides will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, student responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of $250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about students. Electronic submission of student information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

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