

NAEP 2019 in Your School

High School Transcript Study

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

- ▶ The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in a variety of academic subjects. NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ In addition to the assessments, NAEP coordinates a number of related special studies. Such studies often involve special data collection procedures in the field, in-depth analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures.
- ▶ The NAEP High School Transcript Study (HSTS), sponsored by NCES, is a periodic survey of transcripts of high school graduates and the relationship between coursetaking patterns and student achievement.

The NAEP HSTS is designed to provide information about the types of courses that graduates take during high school, how many credits they earn, and their grade point averages. In addition, this study provides an opportunity to examine the relationship between coursetaking patterns and educational achievement through the link to NAEP proficiency data. The HSTS 2019 school sample includes public and private schools.

What Is the Schedule of Activities for HSTS 2019?

Preliminary Activities (September 2018–March 2019)

- Schools will be notified of their selection for HSTS and asked to identify an HSTS school coordinator.
- Course catalogs or course lists will be requested for the current school year (2018–2019) and for the preceding three years (2017–2018, 2016–2017, and 2015–2016).
- Schools will be asked to complete a School Information Form that asks about credits awarded for courses, grading policies, and graduation requirements, as well as transcript content information and transcript submission.
- A sample student transcript, with the student name redacted, will be requested at the school, district, or state level.
- Schools will be instructed to place the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) disclosure notices with the files of students selected to take the NAEP 2019 mathematics and science assessments. These notices will include the FERPA provisions, which explain the disclosure safeguards that grant NCES the authority to obtain transcript information.

Transcript Collection (June–October 2019)

- NAEP will collect copies of transcripts for the sampled students. The state or district will provide transcripts directly to NAEP, or a study representative will contact the HSTS coordinator about collecting the transcripts. If the transcripts can be transmitted electronically, information will be given to the HSTS school coordinator about the information the transcripts must include and directions on how to transmit the transcripts. If the transcripts cannot be transmitted electronically, a NAEP representative will return to the school to collect copies of the requested student transcripts.

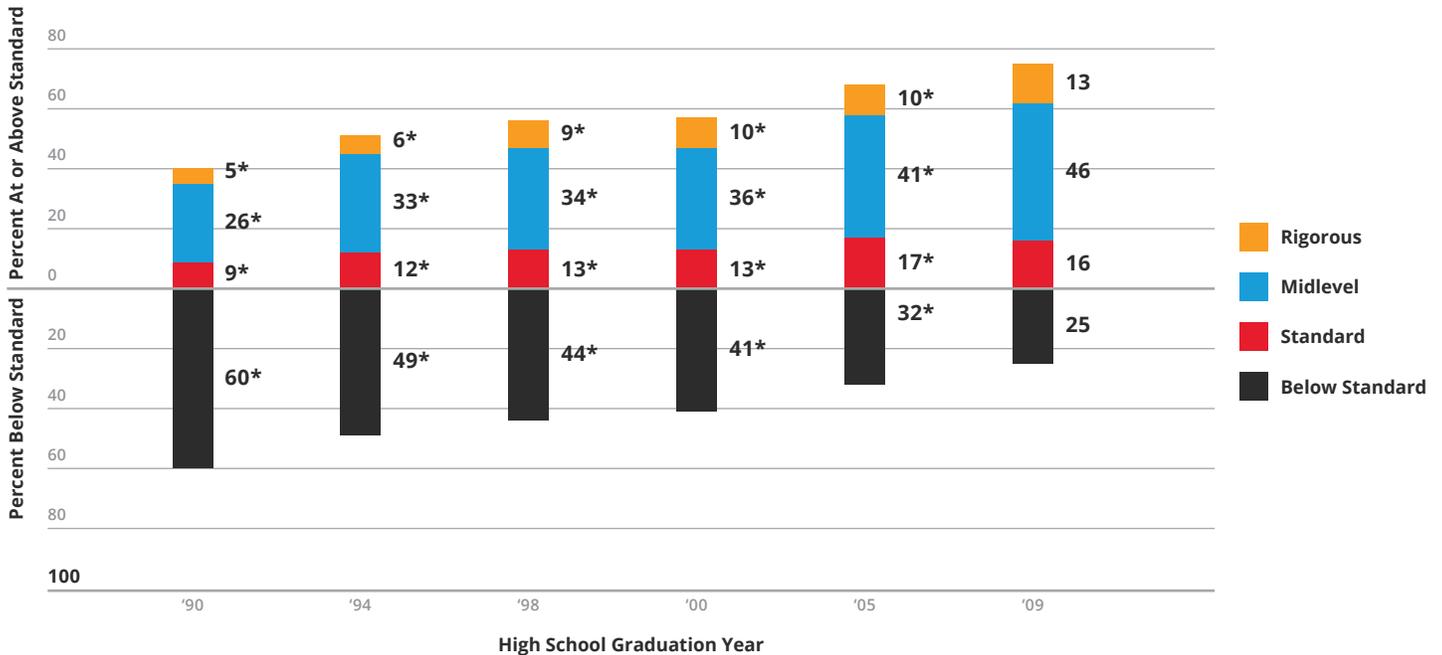


What Else Should You Know?

- **No student or teacher time is involved.** NAEP staff will work with school personnel to minimize burden as much as possible.
- **Confidentiality is a top priority.** Students' names and identifying information will be removed or masked before copies of transcripts are processed.
- **There is no cost to schools.** NCES will pay the school's usual charge for providing transcripts.
- **Parental notification is not required.** Participating schools may choose whether or not to notify parents about this study.

What Have We Learned From the HSTS?

The HSTS was first conducted in 1987 and then in 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2005, and 2009. The graph below highlights the course curriculum levels graduates have completed since 1990, based on the three HSTS curriculum levels: standard, midlevel, and rigorous. Over time, students have taken more challenging courses.



*Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2009.

NOTE: Details may not sum to total because of rounding. Curriculum levels are based on the number of credits earned (where one credit equals a year-long course) and types of courses students complete. The standard curriculum is defined as completing at least four credits of English and three credits each in mathematics, science, and social studies. The midlevel curriculum builds upon the standard curriculum by adding an algebra and geometry requirement, credits in two laboratory sciences (biology, chemistry, or physics), and a credit in foreign languages. The rigorous curriculum level builds upon the midlevel curriculum by adding a fourth credit in mathematics of precalculus or calculus, credits in all three laboratory sciences, and three credits in foreign languages.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, High School Transcript Study (HSTS), various years, 1990–2009

Where Can I Find More Information?

More information about the NAEP high school transcript studies can be found on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/hsts>.

The granting of authority to the U.S. Department of Education for collection of the transcript data has been made pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. 1232g), as implemented by 34 CFR 99.31 (l) (a)(3)(ii) and 99.35. A copy of the relevant FERPA regulations will be provided to you prior to the collection of any transcripts.

The information each participant 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, participant 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 participants. Electronic submission of participant information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

