

## Facts for Teachers

### 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 from state assessments. Because the same NAEP assessment is administered in every state, it provides 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).
- ▶ 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 contextual questionnaires.

“As an educator, I find the contextual information that NAEP provides to be particularly valuable. It helps me take a closer look at the factors related to student achievement across the country.”

— Ann M. Finch, Dover Middle School, Dover, AR

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 the arts, mathematics, reading, and writing. NAEP collects and reports information on student trends and performance at the national, state, and district levels. NAEP releases results as The Nation's Report Card.

**As teachers, you are essential partners in NAEP.** You make an important contribution by 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.

**You can use NAEP questions as an educational resource in your classroom.** With the NAEP Questions Tool, you can view released NAEP items, create a customized assessment for your classroom, and compare your students' performance with national results. Most released items include a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt> to learn more.

### Recent NAEP Findings

#### 2014 U.S. History, Geography, and Civics at Grade 8

**25%** of eighth-graders reported using computers at school for history and social studies, up from **18%** in 2010.

**23%** of eighth-graders reported that they listen to information presented online, up from **17%** in 2010.

**Coming Soon!** Visit [www.nationsreportcard.gov](http://www.nationsreportcard.gov) this fall for results from the 2015 mathematics and reading assessments.



## The NAEP 2016 Program

The following assessments will be administered in 2016:

- **Arts assessment—Grade 8**

This assessment has a music and a visual arts component, but only one component will be administered to each student. Results will be released at the national level. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools on assessment day, so schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment and desks or tables.

To learn more about the arts assessment, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/arts>.

- **Digitally based pilot assessments—  
Grades 4, 8, and 12**

In 2016, some schools will participate in mathematics, reading, and writing pilot assessments administered on tablets with keyboards. Results from the pilot will not be released but will be used to prepare for the full transition to digitally based assessments by the end of the decade. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools. Schools will only need to provide space for the assessment, desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location; schools will not need to provide Internet access.

To learn more about the digitally based pilot assessments, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba>.

## It's Important to Know That...

**Frameworks guide the development of NAEP assessments.** Specific frameworks (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp>) define the knowledge and skills to be measured. The National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees and sets policy for NAEP, develops the frameworks. Governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, principals, teachers and education specialists, business representatives, parents, and members of the public make up the 26-member Governing Board.

**NAEP causes minimal disruption for teachers and students.** No advance preparation is necessary for you or your students. Trained NAEP representatives, employed by contractors of the National Center for Education Statistics, administer the NAEP assessments. Your NAEP school coordinator is your school's liaison for all NAEP assessment activities and can provide additional guidance and information.

**Each student takes only a portion of the full assessment.** Each student will take the NAEP assessment in one subject only. It takes approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities, including transition time and directions. While you do not need to prepare your students to take the assessment, you should encourage them to do their best.

**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.

**NAEP is confidential.** No one involved in administering NAEP keeps personal information on teachers or students after the assessments are completed. There are no results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

## NAEP Results

Since 1969, NAEP has produced many reports chronicling trends over time in the performance of 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds and fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. Information is reported by race/ethnicity, gender, type of school, and by both achievement level and scale scores. You can access data from previous assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata> and explore the most recent results at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

NAEP also disseminates information from data collected on student, teacher, and school contextual questionnaires. This information can be used to inform parents, the public, and education policymakers about our nation's educational environment. Learn more about these results at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.aspx>.



“The NAEP team that arrived at our school made the assessment process painless. Everyone on the team previously worked as an educator and interacted well with all of our students. The technology-based assessment our students took kept them actively engaged throughout the session.”

— Kimberly Wilborn, Assessment Coach, Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria, VA



## More About NAEP

To hear teachers share their thoughts about why NAEP results are important, view the video *Introducing NAEP to Teachers* at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/teachervideo>.

To learn what NAEP means for schools selected to participate, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.asp>.

To learn about upcoming NAEP assessments, download NAEP reports, and access sample questions, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

Call the NAEP Help Desk at 800-283-6237.

Contact your NAEP school coordinator.

Contact your NAEP state coordinator by visiting <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>.

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