

NAEP 2018

Facts for Teachers

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

- 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.
- Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- 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 large urban 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.




“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 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, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card. For more information about NAEP, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

The NAEP 2018 Program—January 29 to March 9, 2018

The table below shows which subjects will be assessed in 2018. Each student will be assessed in only one subject. National results will be released for the civics, geography, U.S. history, and technology and engineering literacy assessments. Information collected from pilots and special studies is used to prepare for future NAEP assessments.

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)	✓		



The NAEP civics, geography, and U.S. history assessments

In 2018, the NAEP civics, geography, and U.S. history assessments will be administered to eighth-grade students on NAEP-provided tablets. A small number of eighth-grade students, in a session separate from those taking the assessments on tablets, may take paper-and-pencil assessments in civics, geography, and U.S. history. Administering these assessments via both tablet and paper and pencil will help NAEP evaluate any differences in student performance between the two types of administration.

The NAEP technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment

The TEL assessment measures students' capacity to use, understand, and evaluate technology as well as understand technological principles and strategies. In 2018, eighth-grade students who take this interactive assessment will be asked to complete computer simulations of technology and engineering scenario-based tasks set in a variety of real-world contexts. View sample scenario-based tasks and explore the results of the 2014 assessment at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/tel_2014. To learn more about this assessment and view a tutorial, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel/>.

The NAEP pilot assessments and special studies

In 2018, NAEP will administer reading special studies and science pilot assessments on tablets at grades 4 and 8. Students in grade 12 will take mathematics, reading, and science pilot assessments as well as a reading special study. Results from these pilot assessments and special studies will be used to inform NAEP assessments. Science pilot assessments will include hands-on tasks in which students use materials and laboratory equipment to perform actual science experiments. To explore hands-on tasks online, visit https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009/ict_tasks.aspx?tab_id=tab2&subtab_id=Tab_1#tabsContainer.

Learn more about the NAEP digitally based assessments at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba>. To view NAEP tutorials, visit <https://enaep-public.naepims.org/2017/EN/welcome.html>.

The NAEP-NTPS Linking Study

In 2018, a small number of schools will participate in a pilot linking study to explore the feasibility of administering both NAEP and the National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) to a common set of teachers and schools as part of the NAEP administration.

The NAEP and NTPS questionnaires gather specific data that contribute to a better understanding of educational progress, as well as teacher and school staff experiences across the nation. The linking study will include selected schools, teachers, and principals that participate in NAEP pilot administrations. To learn more about this linking study and why participation is important, view the *NAEP-NTPS Linking Study Facts for Schools* PDF at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx>.

NAEP and Teachers

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. To learn more about NAEP and view FAQs for teachers, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/educators>.

Teachers can use NAEP questions as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. With the NAEP Questions Tool, you can view released NAEP items, create customized assessments for your classroom, and compare your students' performance with national results. Teachers, students, and parents can access information and also compare results for various demographic groups. Most released items include a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. Visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt/> to learn more.

NAEP survey questionnaires are voluntarily completed by students, teachers, and principals who participate in a NAEP assessment. Students may answer as many questions as they like and may skip any question by leaving a response blank. NAEP survey questionnaires provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom. This information helps put student achievement results into context and allows for meaningful comparison between student groups. It also provides important data and insight for educators, policymakers, and researchers to better understand the educational experiences and needs of students in the United States.

In 2018, teachers will be asked to complete the civics, geography, and U.S. history survey questionnaire. (There is no TEL survey questionnaire for teachers.) NAEP teacher survey questionnaires gather information on teacher

training and instructional practices. These survey questionnaires will be delivered via an online format, but teachers can request a paper-and-pencil version.

To learn more about NAEP survey questionnaires and view student, teacher, and school questionnaires from previous years, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.aspx>.

NAEP Results

Since 1969, NAEP has produced many reports chronicling the performance of 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 <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata> and explore the most recent results at <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov>.

Recent Results

2015 Science Assessment

- Average NAEP science scores for the nation increased 4 points between 2009 and 2015 for fourth- and eighth-grade students.
- Compared to 2009, scores were higher for fourth- and eighth-grade students in all three science content areas (physical science, life science, and Earth and space sciences).

Explore the 2015 NAEP science assessment results and watch an informative overview video at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/science_2015.

2015 Mathematics and Reading Assessments

- The White – Black score gap in mathematics for fourth-grade students narrowed by 1 point since 2013 and by 8 points since 1990.
- In 2015, reading scores for fourth-grade students increased in 13 states/jurisdictions compared to 2013.

View the 2015 mathematics and reading assessment results and learn more about the results in an overview video at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_2015.

2016 Arts Assessment

- The score gap between White and Hispanic eighth-grade students narrowed in 2016 compared to 2008 by 9 points in the music assessment and 7 points in the visual arts assessment.

Dig deeper into the results of the 2016 arts assessment at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/arts_2016/#/.

Coming in 2018! Look for results of the 2017 mathematics and reading digitally based assessments in early 2018 at <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov>.

It's important to know...

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 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 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.

*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.

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 designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction. Including transition time, directions, and 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 by working with your school's designated coordinator 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.



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“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

- Get the latest NAEP news in *Measure Up: NAEP News for the School Community*, available online at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx>.
- To hear teachers share their thoughts about why NAEP results are important, view the video *Introducing NAEP to Teachers* at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/teachervideo>.
- To learn what NAEP means for schools selected to participate, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx>.
- To learn about upcoming NAEP assessments, download NAEP reports, and access sample questions, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.
- For additional assistance, call the NAEP help desk at 800-283-6237.
- To find your NAEP state coordinator, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>, select your state on the map, and scroll down to Contact Information.



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