



Teacher Background Questionnaire

2000 Science Grade 8

TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

Grade 8 – Science

During the next few weeks, some of your eighth-grade students will be assessed in mathematics and science as part of the 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). In addition to surveying students' achievement in these subjects, NAEP collects information from teachers about their instructional practices in order to investigate the relationship between achievement and instruction.

You have been identified as the person who teaches science to one or more students in the assessment. In this questionnaire, you will be asked about your background and about the classes where science is taught to these students.

Only you can provide information about the instruction these students receive, and your answers are very important. Although you are very busy, we urge you to complete this questionnaire as accurately as possible.

The information you provide is being collected for research purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential. NAEP is authorized under Public Law 103-382. While your participation is voluntary, your responses to these questions are needed to make the survey accurate and complete.

Instructions

This questionnaire contains three parts.

Part I – Background, Education, and Resources

Part IIA – Science Preparation

Part IIB – Science Instructional Information

You should complete all parts of the questionnaire. For Part IIB, answer questions about only the class periods indicated on the front cover. Please record your answers directly in this questionnaire by filling in the appropriate ovals.

Because more than one of your classes may contain students who have been selected for the assessment, some of the questions in Part IIB provide space for you to supply information for up to five different classes.

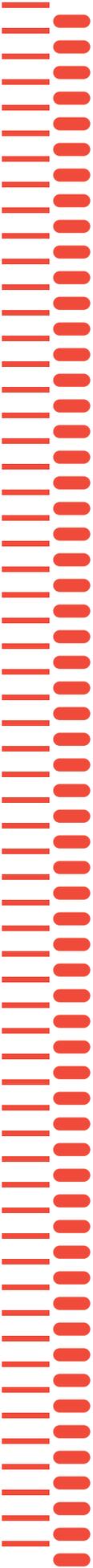
If you teach one class of students all day, this should be called class period "1" on the front cover and throughout this questionnaire.

If your class schedule changes from day to day, the class periods identified refer to your Monday schedule.

When you are finished, please return the questionnaire to your school's NAEP coordinator.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.





Part I: Background, Education, and Resources

There are 16 questions in this section.

HE001004

1. What is your gender?

- Ⓐ Male
- Ⓑ Female

LD001610

1a. Which best describes you?

- Ⓐ White (not Hispanic)
- Ⓑ Black (not Hispanic)
- Ⓒ Hispanic (“Hispanic” means someone who is from a Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish or Hispanic background.)
- Ⓓ Asian or Pacific Islander (“Asian or Pacific Islander” means someone who is from a Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, or other Asian or Pacific Island background.)
- Ⓔ American Indian or Alaskan Native (“American Indian or Alaskan Native” means someone who is from one of the American Indian tribes, or one of the original people of Alaska.)
- Ⓕ Other (specify) _____

HE001007

2. Counting this year, how many years in total (include part-time teaching) have you taught at either the elementary or secondary level?

- Ⓐ 2 years or less
- Ⓑ 3-5 years
- Ⓒ 6-10 years
- Ⓓ 11-24 years
- Ⓔ 25 years or more

QK070732

3. Counting this year, how many years in total have you taught science? (Include any permanent, full-time, or part-time assignments, but not substitute assignments).

- A 2 years or less
- B 3-5 years
- C 6-10 years
- D 11-24 years
- E 25 years or more

HE002551

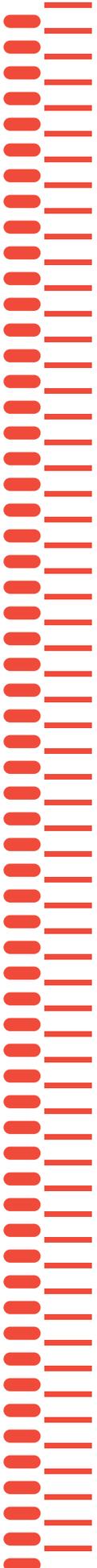
4. What type of teaching certificate do you have in this state in your main assignment field?

- A Advanced professional certificate
- B Regular or standard state certificate (standard certificate offered in state)
- C Probationary state certificate (the initial certificate issued after satisfying all requirements except completion of a probationary period)
- D Temporary, provisional, or emergency state certificate
- E Certification by an accreditation body other than the state
- F I don't have a certificate in my main assignment field.

HE001009

5. Do you have teaching certification in any of the following areas that is recognized by the state in which you teach? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes	No	Not Offered in My State	
a. Elementary or middle/junior high school education (general)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE001010
b. Elementary science	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE002553
c. Middle/junior high school or secondary science	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE002554
d. Other	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE002555





6. What is the highest academic degree you hold?

- Ⓐ High school diploma
- Ⓑ Associate's degree/vocational certification
- Ⓒ Bachelor's degree
- Ⓓ Master's degree
- Ⓔ Education specialist's or professional diploma based on at least one year's work past master's degree
- Ⓕ Doctorate
- Ⓖ Professional degree (e.g., M.D., LL.B., J.D., D.D.S.)

7. What were your undergraduate major fields of study? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------|
| a. Education | Ⓐ | HE002556 |
| b. Elementary education | Ⓐ | HE002557 |
| c. Secondary education | Ⓐ | HE002558 |
| d. Science education | Ⓐ | HE002561 |
| e. Life science | Ⓐ | HE002562 |
| f. Physical science | Ⓐ | HE002563 |
| g. Earth science | Ⓐ | HE002564 |
| h. Special education | Ⓐ | HE002565 |
| i. Bilingual education or ESL | Ⓐ | HE002566 |
| j. Other | Ⓐ | HE002567 |

8. What were your graduate major fields of study? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

- a. Education
- b. Elementary education
- c. Secondary education
- d. Special education
- e. Life science
- f. Physical science
- g. Earth science
- h. Special education
- i. Bilingual education
- j. Administration and supervision
- k. Curriculum and instruction
- l. Counseling
- m. Other
- n. No graduate-level study

HE001014

HE002568

HE002569

HE002570

HE002573

HE002574

HE002575

HE002576

HE002577

HE002578

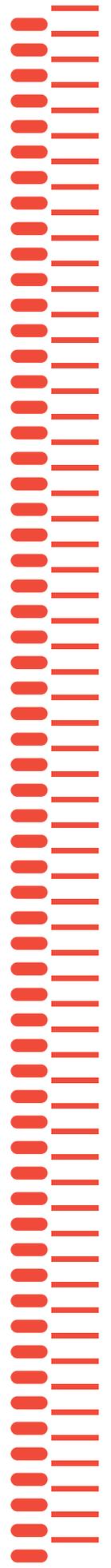
HE002579

HE002580

LD001506

HE002581

HE002582





9. What were your undergraduate and graduate minor fields of study? Fill in **all** ovals that apply. HE002583
- a. Education HE002584
 - b. Elementary education HE002585
 - c. Secondary education HE002586
 - d. Science education HE002589
 - e. Life science HE002590
 - f. Physical science HE002591
 - g. Earth science HE002592
 - h. Special education HE002593
 - i. Bilingual education HE002594
 - j. Administration and supervision HE002595
 - k. Curriculum and instruction HE002596
 - l. Counseling LD001509
 - m. Other HE002597
 - n. No minor field of study HE002598
10. During the last year, how much time in total have you spent in professional development workshops or seminars in science or science education? Include attendance at professional meetings and conferences, district-sponsored workshops, and external workshops. HE002600
- None
 - Less than 6 hours
 - 6-15 hours
 - 16-35
 - More than 35 hours

HE002602

11. During the last two years, how many college or university courses have you taken in science or science education?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ One
- Ⓒ Two
- Ⓓ Three
- Ⓔ Four or more

HE001022

12. Which of the following statements is true about how well your school system provides you with the instructional materials and other resources you need to teach your class?

- Ⓐ I get all the resources I need.
- Ⓑ I get most of the resources I need.
- Ⓒ I get some of the resources I need.
- Ⓓ I don't get any of the resources I need.

HE002618

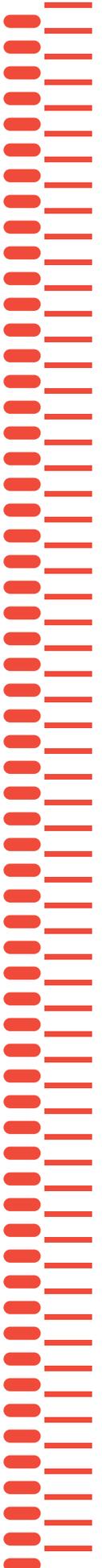
13. Is there a curriculum specialist available to help or advise you in science?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

QK070702

14. During the past 12 months, how often have you used the services of a curriculum specialist to help/advise you in science?

- Ⓐ Often
- Ⓑ Occasionally
- Ⓒ Never
- Ⓓ There is no curriculum specialist available.



15. How many school hours do you have designated as preparation time per week?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ Less than 1
- Ⓒ 1-2
- Ⓓ 3-4
- Ⓔ 5
- Ⓕ More than 5

16. Over the past 12 months, **approximately** how much of your own money have you spent on materials and equipment for instruction in your science classes?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ \$1-\$25
- Ⓒ \$26-\$50
- Ⓓ \$51-\$100
- Ⓔ \$101-\$150
- Ⓕ \$151-\$250
- Ⓖ More than \$250

Part II-A: Science Preparation

There are 2 questions in this section.

QK070721

1. During the past two years, have you taken college or university courses or participated in professional development activities in any of the following? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

	College or University Course(s)	Workshops Lasting More than 1 Day	Workshops Lasting 1 Day or Less	None	
a. Methods of teaching science	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070722
b. Biology/life science	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070723
c. Chemistry	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070724
d. Physics	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070725
e. Earth science	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070726
f. Other types of science courses	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	QK070727

WO001025

2. During the past five years, have you taken courses or participated in professional development activities in any of the following areas? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

a. Use of computers for data acquisition (probeware, scientific instrumentation)	Ⓐ	WO001026
b. Use of computers for data analysis (databases, spreadsheets, graphing software)	Ⓐ	WO001027
c. Laboratory management or safety	Ⓐ	WO001029
d. Integrated science instruction (integrating strands of life, physical, and earth sciences)	Ⓐ	WO001030

3. About how often do your science students go on a science field trip?

HE002431

- Ⓐ 3 or more times a year
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 times a year
- Ⓒ Never or hardly ever

4. Think about your plans for your science instruction during the entire year. About how much emphasis will you give to each of the following objectives for your students? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

HE002435

	Heavy Emphasis	Moderate Emphasis	Little or No Emphasis	
a. Knowing science facts and terminology	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002436
b. Understanding key science concepts	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002437
c. Developing science problem-solving skills	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002438
d. Learning about the relevance of science to society and technology	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002439
e. Knowing how to communicate ideas in science effectively	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002440
f. Developing laboratory skills and techniques	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002441
g. Developing students' interest in science	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002442
h. Developing data analysis skills	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002443
i. Using technology as a scientific tool	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓒ	HE002444

5. Do you ever assign individual or group science projects or investigations in school that take a week or more?

HE002445

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No



HE002446

6. How often do you use each of the following to assess student progress in science? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Once or Twice a Week	Once or Twice a Month	Once per Grading Period	Once or Twice a Year	Never or Hardly Ever	
a. Multiple-choice tests	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	HE002447
b. Short or long written responses (e.g., a phrase or sentence; or several sentences or paragraphs)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	HE002448
c. Laboratory notebooks or journals	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	HE002454

HE002457

7. What proportion of a student's evaluation in science (final grade) is based on performance with hands-on activities?

- A Most or all of the grade
- B About half of the grade
- C Very little of the grade
- D None of the grade

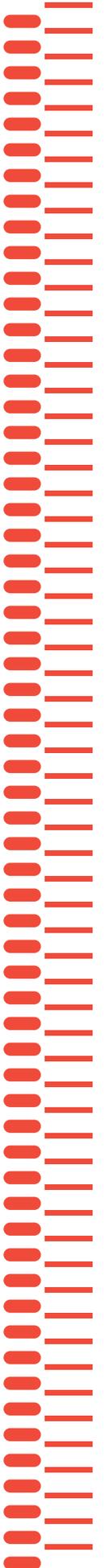
HE002458

8. Which best describes the availability of computers for use by your science students?

- A None available
- B One within the classroom
- C Two or three within the classroom
- D Four or more within the classroom
- E Available in a computer laboratory but difficult to access or schedule
- F Available in a computer laboratory and easy to access or schedule

9. How do you use computers for instruction in science?

- Ⓐ Drill and practice
- Ⓑ Playing science/learning games
- Ⓒ Simulations and modeling
- Ⓓ Data analysis and other applications
- Ⓔ Word processing
- Ⓕ I do not use computers for science instruction.





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Questions 10 through 15. Please answer these questions about each of the science classes listed on the front cover. One column is provided for each class. However, if your responses to all of these questions are the same for more than one class, record your answers for these classes in one column and grid the class period numbers for which your responses apply at the top of the column. If you teach one class of students all day, this should be called class period “1” on the front cover and throughout this section.

Fill in **one** oval in each column for each question then complete **Question 16** as directed.

For which class period(s) do all of the following responses apply? →	COLUMN 1									COLUMN 2								
	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨
<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">HE002412</p> <p>10. Are students assigned to this class by ability?</p> <p>A Yes</p> <p>B No</p>	10.									10.								
		<input type="radio"/>									<input type="radio"/>							
		<input type="radio"/>									<input type="radio"/>							
<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">HE002461</p> <p>11. If students are assigned by ability, which of the following best describes the science ability level of the students in this class?</p> <p>A Students are not assigned by ability.</p> <p>B Primarily high ability</p> <p>C Primarily average ability</p> <p>D Primarily low ability</p> <p>E Widely mixed ability</p>	11.									11.								
		<input type="radio"/>									<input type="radio"/>							
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<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">HE002463</p> <p>12. In this class, about how much time do you spend on each of the following areas of science? Fill in one oval on each line.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A lot Some Little None</p> <p>A Life science</p> <p>B Earth science</p> <p>C Physical science</p>	12.									12.								
		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>						<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
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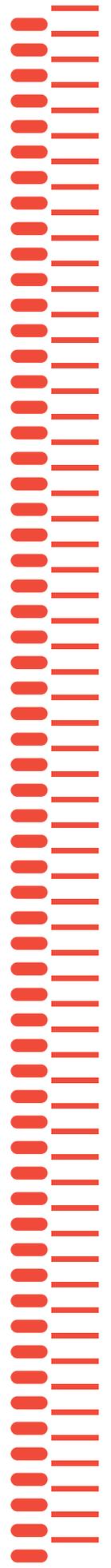


COLUMN 3									COLUMN 4									COLUMN 5								
①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨
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COLUMN 1

COLUMN 2

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
HE002464	13. Which of the following best describes the space where this class is taught?	13.
	A A classroom with no access to a laboratory or a water source	A
	B A classroom with access to a water source only	B
	C A classroom with access to a laboratory only	C
	D A laboratory with water source	D
HE002465	14. As part of their work for this science class, do students produce any of the following records of their work? Fill in all ovals that apply.	14.
HE002466	a. Notebooks or reports of laboratory work	a. A
HE002467	b. Reports or other written records of extended science projects	b. A
HE002468	c. Written reports on specific topics or issues in science	c. A
HE002470	d. Journals, diaries, or logs of ideas about science or work done for science class	d. A
HE002475	e. Computer-generated multimedia science projects	e. A





COLUMN 3

COLUMN 4

COLUMN 5

13.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

14.

a. (A)

b. (A)

c. (A)

d. (A)

e. (A)

13.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

14.

a. (A)

b. (A)

c. (A)

d. (A)

e. (A)

13.

(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

14.

a. (A)

b. (A)

c. (A)

d. (A)

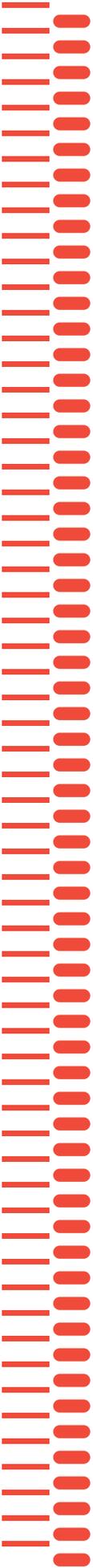
e. (A)

COLUMN 1

COLUMN 2

	COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
HE002476		
15. About how much time do you expect a student in this class to spend doing science homework each week ?	15.	15
A None	(A)	(A)
B 1/2 hour	(B)	(B)
C 1 hour	(C)	(C)
D 2 hours	(D)	(D)
E More than 2 hours	(E)	(E)





COLUMN 3

COLUMN 4

COLUMN 5

15.

- (A)
- (B)
- (C)
- (D)
- (E)

15.

- (A)
- (B)
- (C)
- (D)
- (E)

15.

- (A)
- (B)
- (C)
- (D)
- (E)

16. For each of the science class periods indicated on the front cover, please fill in the oval for the class period and, using the boxes provided, print the number of students in that class.

Please print legibly with a No. 2 pencil. Numbers should be written clearly in the center of the boxes and should not touch the sides. Using one number per box, fill in every box. For example, 9 students would be written as:

Class period ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ Number of students:

Class period ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ Number of students:

Class period ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ Number of students:

Class period ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ Number of students:

Class period ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ Number of students:

