NAEP
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

2011-2012

Facts for Districts

NAEP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

- Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP resources and results to develop ways to improve education.
- NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.
- Depending on the type of NAEP assessment that is administered, data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and participating urban districts.
- Teachers can use sample NAEP questions and scoring guides as a resource for understanding student performance.
- During the 2011-2012 school year, NAEP long-term trend will be assessed in mathematics and reading at ages 9, 13, and 17, as well as an economics assessment at grade 12.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), first administered in 1969, is the largest nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card.

District staff play an essential role in NAEP. Superintendents and district assessment leaders can work closely with principals to explain the importance of the assessment to teachers and students selected for participation. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. The table below shows which subjects will be assessed during the 2011-2012 school year; only national results will be available.

The NAEP 2011-2012 Program

Age or Grade	Assessment Type	Subjects	Assessment Window
9-year-olds	Long-term trend	Mathematics Reading	January 9, 2012- March 16, 2012
13-year-olds	Long-term trend	Mathematics Reading	October 10, 2011- December 16, 2011
17-year-olds	Long-term trend	Mathematics Reading	March 19, 2012- May 25, 2012
Grade 4	Main	Writing computer-based (pilot)	January 23, 2012- March 2, 2012
Grade 12	Main	Economics Mathematics (pilot) Reading(pilot)	January 23, 2012- March 2, 2012

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

It's important to know that...

NAEP long-term trend assessments measure student performance in mathematics and reading, and have allowed the performance of today's students to be compared with students since the early 1970s. Long-term trend assessments are administered to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds every 4 years.

Main NAEP is administered to fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-graders across the country in a variety of subjects. National results are available for all assessments and subjects.

Information collected from pilot assessments in the 2011-2012 school year will be used to prepare for future assessments, including NAEP 2013.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality.

From the development of 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 not only measures student progress, but also helps to inform policy decisions for improving education in the United States.

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 designed to cause minimal disruption of instruction.

It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete the NAEP assessment. Students will answer questions in one of the various subject areas being assessed. They will also be asked to fill out the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information, such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment, but they should encourage them to do their best. NAEP staff members administer the assessment and work with your designated NAEP school coordinator to organize assessment activities.

NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource.

Teachers can use NAEP items that have been released to see how their students' performance compares nationally on specific items. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. All of this information is provided in the NAEP Questions Tool which can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/.

On the NAEP website, http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard, district and school staff can also

- view results for the nation over time,
- compare results for various demographic groups, and
- access information designed for teachers, students, and parents.

"The staff and students in our building had a very positive testing experience due to the detailed information we received and the pre-test communications between the Field Manager and our school. The NAEP results have prompted us to engage in consistent analysis of our data."

– Donna Moss, School NAEP Coordinator, Audubon Middle School, Milwaukee, WI

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