

## Grade 12 State Program

### NAEP IS AN ESSENTIAL MEASUREMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

- ▶ NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card.
- ▶ Teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States.
- ▶ NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally.

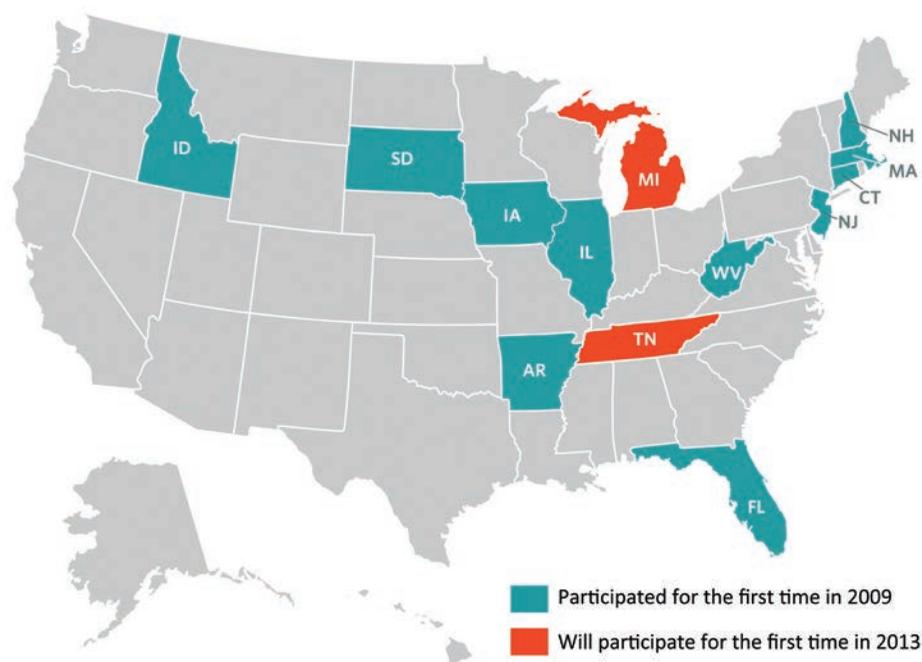
The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative assessment of what students across the United States know and can do. NAEP was first administered in 1969, and it assesses fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-graders. The results of NAEP are published as The Nation's Report Card and are available for the nation, states, and districts participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

While grade 12 results are typically released only at the national level, in 2009, NCES began a trial program to provide state-level results for participating states. In the program's inaugural year, 11 states volunteered and received state-level results in mathematics and reading.

In 2013, NCES will again offer state-level NAEP results for the 11 original states as well as two new participants. The results from the assessment will provide 13 states with a national benchmark for how their students are performing at the end of their high school careers.

### Which states will participate and receive results in 2013?

The 11 original states, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Dakota, and West Virginia, will participate again. Michigan and Tennessee have also volunteered to participate in 2013 for the first time.



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

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## What does this program offer for participating states?

NAEP provides a useful measure of the progress of twelfth-grade students' education across the country. States volunteered to participate for various reasons. Among these reasons were:

- ▶ To use NAEP results at grade 12 as a common yardstick for high school achievement in mathematics and reading;
- ▶ To compare a state's grade 12 students to students in the nation and in other participating states;
- ▶ To obtain an additional indicator of high school reform efforts that have been implemented in their states; and
- ▶ To gauge post-high school preparedness for work or college, since NAEP assesses a representative sample of all high school seniors, not just college-bound seniors, as is generally the case with the ACT and SAT.

## It's important to know that...

- ▶ Twelfth-grade students will be assessed in the winter of 2013. Approximately 1,500 schools and 90,000 students will participate in the grade 12 state-level NAEP program.
- ▶ States will receive results that will enable them to compare the performance of their twelfth-grade students with those across the nation and in other participating states.
- ▶ NAEP assessments do not report individual school and student results. Rather, results are presented by different demographic groups, including data by gender, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity.
- ▶ NAEP results will be available on the report release site at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>. States will also be able to explore their results using the NAEP Data Explorer at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata>.

## The history of the twelfth-grade challenge

Historically twelfth-grade student participation on NAEP has been a challenge, making it difficult to assess what high school seniors have learned during their academic careers. However, it has increased dramatically in recent years due to schools implementing proven strategies to support student participation and engagement.

As a way to improve student participation and motivation on NAEP at grade 12, NCES convened a Secondary School Principals Working Group in 2005. The group's recommendations set the stage for the development of the *Best Practices Guide for Supporting Twelfth-Grade NAEP Participation*, which was launched in 2007 and made available to participating high schools each year. Because of these efforts, twelfth-grade student participation increased 21 percentage points, from a low of 66 percent in 2005 to 87 percent in 2011.

Even though student participation has increased in recent years, efforts to support student participation and engagement need to be renewed each year. As part of the continued effort, the guide is revised annually, and contains proven strategies for increasing student participation; fact sheets; talking points for teachers; a video for students and teachers; PowerPoint slides; and other customizable materials to implement these strategies. It is available through NCES and is distributed to participating high schools by the NAEP State Coordinators.