

WHAT IS NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.

- ▶ NAEP was first administered in 1969, and is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
- ▶ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students within select districts and states, and across the country.
- ▶ NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. The assessment frameworks are developed with input from assessment specialists, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the nation.
- ▶ NAEP monitors student progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally. In some subjects and grades, results are also available for states and select urban districts.

NAEP will be administered in your school between January 24 and March 4 to a sample of twelfth-grade students. Students will participate in a writing computer-based assessment. Results for writing at grade 12 will be released at the national level.

In a small number of schools, NAEP will also conduct a paper-and-pencil economics pilot, which will be used to inform future NAEP economics assessments.

Strategies that have been effective in encouraging and motivating students to participate and do their best in the assessment will be provided later in the *Best Practices Guide for Improving Twelfth-Grade NAEP Participation*.

This fact sheet will help prepare your school and students for participation.

What is involved?

Students will spend about 90-120 minutes completing the assessment, including answering questions in one subject area and answering questions about themselves and their educational experiences, such as the amount of reading they do and what types of classes they take.

NAEP staff members will bring necessary materials, including laptop computers and earbuds, to the school on assessment day. Schools will only need to provide rooms, desks or tables, and electricity; schools do not have to provide Internet access.

The school principal at the selected school will also complete a questionnaire. This questionnaire is designed to help provide contextual information for the assessments, as well as information about factors that may be related to students' learning. Additional information will be collected about how students with disabilities and English language learners will participate in the assessment.



How many students are assessed?

Nationally, approximately 24,000 students at grade 12 will be assessed. About 30 students in each school will be selected to participate. The assessment will be administered in two sequential sessions of about 15 students each. In the small number of schools participating in the economics pilot, an additional 50 students will be selected.

Who is responsible for coordinating and administering NAEP?

Your NAEP State Coordinator, NAEP staff members, and school staff will work together to coordinate and administer the assessment.

A staff person in your school will need to be assigned to serve as the school coordinator, who will be the primary contact in the school for the assessment.

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your state Department of Education and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ Communicating with principals to convey the facts about NAEP and the importance of student participation;
- ▶ Providing schools with information about notifying parents of participating students; and
- ▶ Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

NAEP staff members are employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of twelfth-grade students;
- ▶ Sending a Preassessment Packet of information to the school coordinator in early January;
- ▶ Visiting the school coordinator shortly after the Preassessment Packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements;

- ▶ Bringing all assessment materials to the school, including laptop computers, on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ Conducting the assessments.

Each principal will be responsible for:

- ▶ Assigning a school coordinator;
- ▶ Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ▶ Empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP staff and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ Informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ▶ Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the suggested assessment date is convenient for the school;
- ▶ If requested, providing NAEP with an electronic file of twelfth-grade students;
- ▶ Informing parents of the assessment (the NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished);
- ▶ Receiving the Preassessment Packet and making final preparations for the assessment;
- ▶ Meeting with the NAEP staff during the scheduled preassessment visit; and
- ▶ Ensuring that there is a plan with school staff to achieve high participation of students at the assessment.

Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent in the fall.

Look for the **Best Practices Guide** later this year for strategies to improve twelfth-grade participation and engagement in NAEP.