



# 2011

GRADES 4 AND 8

## NAEP In Your School

### 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 to a sample of fourth- or eighth-grade students in your school between January 24 and March 4, 2011. Students will be assessed in mathematics, reading, or science.

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, districts and states receiving Title I funding are required to participate in the biennial NAEP mathematics and reading assessments in grades 4 and 8.

States will receive results in mathematics and reading at grade 4 and mathematics, reading, and science at grade 8. Twenty-one districts participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment and will receive district-level NAEP results for grades 4 and 8 in mathematics and reading.

For grade 8, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will conduct a special study to link the mathematics and science results of NAEP and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). The NAEP-TIMSS International Linking Study offers an exciting opportunity for states to receive a projected TIMSS score to allow for comparisons to participating countries.

NAEP will administer a separate survey to American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) students who are selected for NAEP and their teachers and school administrators. This survey, part of the National Indian Education Study (NIES), focuses on Indian education and the role of Indian culture in education. The NIES describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. It is expected that about one-quarter of the schools selected for NAEP will have AI/AN students.

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



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

## What is involved?

Students will spend about 90 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. The school principal and the teachers of the subjects being assessed will also complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are 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.

## 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 grade-eligible 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 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 grade-eligible students;
- ▶ Receiving the Preassessment Packet and making final preparations for the assessment;
- ▶ Informing parents of the assessment (the NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished);
- ▶ 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.**

**Your NAEP State Coordinator will provide you with information about how many students are needed to participate in the assessment.**