

2013

An Overview of NAEP in Your Private School



“Private schools have participated in NAEP for decades, and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) supports NAEP and encourages your participation.”

- Joe McTighe, Executive Director, CAPE

Introduction to NAEP 2013

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 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. It is referred to as the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality and because it represents the best thinking of assessment specialists, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the nation.

Teachers, parents, policymakers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States. NAEP is a trusted resource and has been providing valid and reliable data on student performance in schools since 1969.

NAEP is an essential measurement of student achievement in both public and private schools. Keep in mind the following:

- The schools and students selected to take the assessment represent the diversity of our nation's schools and students.
- NAEP reports on student achievement nationally. Individual school and student names or scores are never identified due to strict confidentiality guidelines that NAEP follows.

The NAEP Program for 2013

More than 650 private schools will be selected to participate in the NAEP 2013 assessment. NAEP will be administered between January 28 and March 8, 2013, to a sample of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students in mathematics and reading. In addition, NAEP will administer a computer-based technology and engineering literacy (TEL) pilot at grade 8. Individual students will be assessed in only one subject.

“We at the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA) strongly support private school participation in NAEP.”

— Donald A. Sylvan, President, JESNA



Who determines the content of NAEP?

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a division within the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, administers the assessment. NCES is responsible for the development of the questions, the administration of the assessment, scoring, conducting analyses, and reporting the results. Each NAEP assessment is built from a content framework that specifies what students should know and be able to do in a given subject and grade. The National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for NAEP, oversees the creation of the NAEP frameworks.

How was my school selected?

Each year, a new sample of schools is drawn for NAEP. The sample is based on data from the Private School Universe Survey (PSS). The PSS collects and stores data on more than 30,000 private schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The number of private schools sampled for NAEP varies from year to year, depending on the number of subjects being assessed and the extent of reporting for different types of private schools.

Inclusion of Private Schools

Private schools have been participating in NAEP for decades and are an integral part of providing a complete picture of U.S. education.

Private schools represent about 25 percent of schools in the nation and educate approximately 9 percent of our nation's students. Without the participation of private schools in NAEP, any report of trends in student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels would be incomplete. By participating, your students have an important role in representing thousands of other private school students.

NAEP has consistently demonstrated how the performance of students in private schools compares positively to that of students in public schools and the rest of the nation. The performance of students attending private schools can be examined on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>.

Endorsements

More than 50 national, regional, and state private school organizations have provided letters endorsing private school participation in NAEP for 2013.

— “The Association of Christian School International (ACSI) considers NAEP to be a worthy project and supports the participation of private schools in NAEP.”

— *Brian Simmons, President, ACSI*



Private School Results

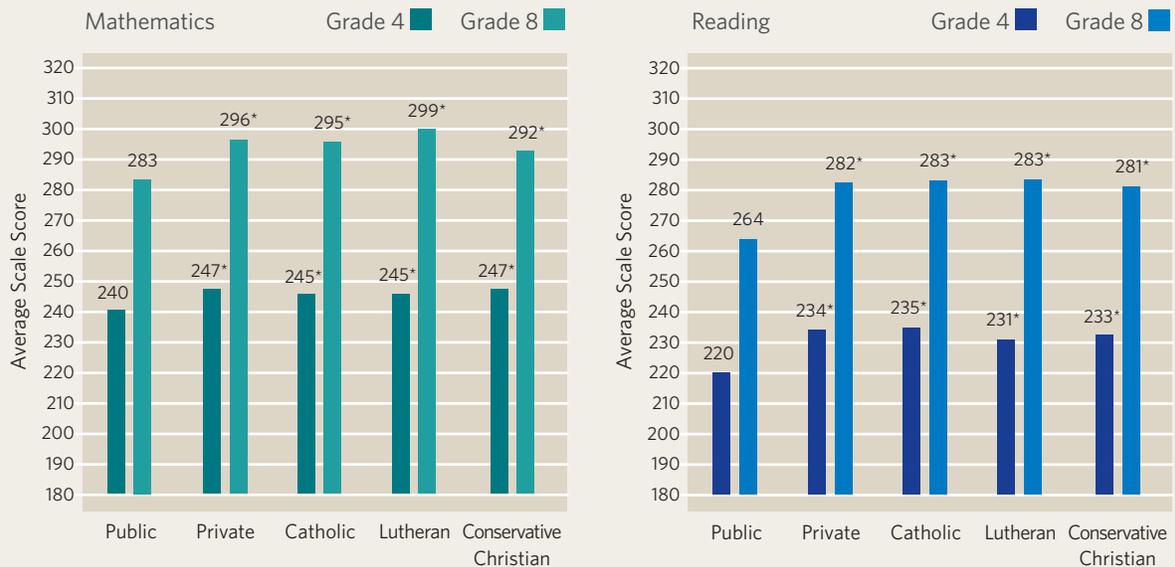
Students who participated in NAEP 2011 were assessed in mathematics or reading, as well as other subjects. The graphs below display mathematics and reading results for private and public school students in grades 4 and 8.

In 2011, students from private schools on average outperformed students from public schools in mathematics and reading achievement at both grades 4 and 8.

Results for private schools can only be reported when 70 percent of schools selected for NAEP participate in the assessment.

NAEP 2013 results are scheduled to be reported for two groups of private schools: Catholic and other private schools.

NAEP 2011 Mathematics and Reading Scale Scores



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from public schools. NAEP scale scores in mathematics and reading range from 0 to 500.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments.

Participation

It is vitally important that private school students are represented in reports of our nation's educational progress. Once you have agreed to participate, a local NAEP representative will work directly with your designated school coordinator to make assessment arrangements.

What is involved?

Although there are three subjects being assessed in 2013, individual students will be assessed in only one subject. Most students will spend approximately 90 minutes completing the mathematics or reading assessment, as well as the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. A small number of schools and students may participate in the computer-based technology and engineering literacy pilot, which will take approximately 120 minutes. Trained field staff will bring all assessment materials and administer the assessment.

Each principal will be asked to

- designate a school coordinator; and
- include the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar.

The NAEP representative will then work with the school coordinator to complete logistical tasks highlighted below.

- **Register on the MySchool website.** Schools selected for NAEP can access detailed information about the assessment on this site. Schools may choose to register for the MySchool website by following these simple steps:

- Go to www.mynaep.com;
- Click on the "New MySchool users REGISTER here" link; and
- Enter your MySchool Registration ID.

More information, including the school-specific MySchool registration ID, is sent to schools at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

"Adventist Education supports participation of private schools in NAEP so that NAEP can develop a complete picture of American education."

- Larry Blackmer, Vice President of Education,
Seventh-Day Adventist Church,
North American Division

- **Provide a list of eligible students.** NAEP uses a complete list of students in the selected grade to draw a random sample of students to participate in the assessment. The list of students can be provided (1) in a hardcopy format that is retained at the school to be sampled on site by a visiting NAEP representative, or (2) electronically through the secure MySchool website. Your NAEP representative will provide further information on these options and allow you to select the best method for your school.
- **Inform parents.** By law, before the administration of the assessment, parents of students selected for NAEP must be informed that their child may be (or has been) selected, may be excused from participation for any reason, and is not required to finish the assessment or answer all test questions. The NAEP representative will provide a sample parent/guardian notification letter and further instructions on how to fulfill this requirement.
- **Meet with the NAEP representative prior to the assessment.** The NAEP representative will contact your school at an agreed-upon date in early 2013 to review the information necessary to prepare for the assessment and to make final arrangements.
- **Ensure that students attend the session on assessment day.** The school coordinator should be available prior to the assessment start time to ensure that students report to the session for which they are selected. The school coordinator and/or teachers of



the selected students are encouraged to remain in the room during the assessment, although they are not required to do so.

What are the responsibilities of the NAEP representatives?

NAEP representatives work directly with schools. Most of the NAEP staff are retired teachers or administrators from the local area. All NAEP staff have completed a thorough qualifications review, including submitting fingerprints for an FBI clearance and signing an oath of confidentiality. A NAEP representative will be assigned to work out logistics with the school, provide the school coordinator with instructions for ensuring a successful assessment, and lead the team of NAEP staff on the day of assessment.

Private School Results Online

NAEP assesses a representative sample of private school students at grades 4, 8, and 12. Several different breakdowns of results are available depending on the years, jurisdiction, and level of participation.

With high levels of private school student participation, NAEP can help provide answers to important questions such as the following:

- How has private school student performance in NAEP subjects changed over time?
- How does the performance of students in private schools compare to the performance of public school students?
- How does the performance of students in Catholic schools compare to the performance of students in other types of private schools?

Findings: Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading

From 1992 to 2011, students in Catholic schools consistently had higher average scores than students in public schools.

The same is true for other private schools for years in which the reporting standards were met.

“With the cooperation of principals, Catholic schools have achieved excellent participation in NAEP. The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) continues to support participation in NAEP.”

– Karen Ristau, President, NCEA

Results for private schools are reported for Catholic schools and other private schools, and can be accessed by following the steps as illustrated on pages 8 and 9.

Additional Data Tools: Along with an overview of NAEP data for private schools, more specific results are available through the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE) at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.

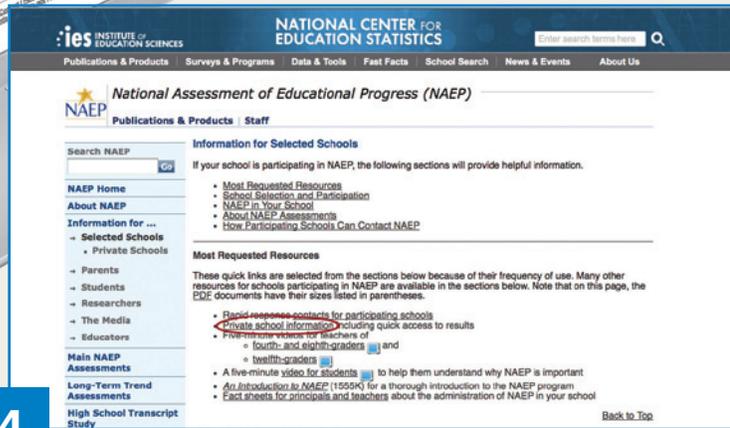


1 Go to The Nation's Report Card website

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

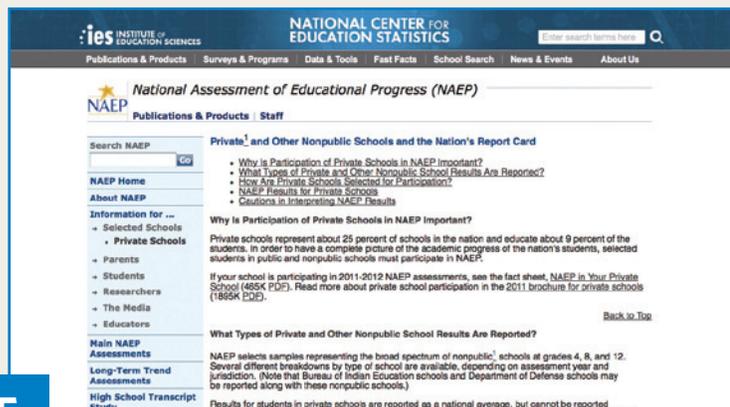
2 Click on the link "Information for..."

3 Click on the link "Selected Schools"



4 Click on the link "Private School Information"

4



5 Click on the link "NAEP Results for Private Schools"

5

NAEP Results for Private Schools

Results for nonpublic schools can be examined through the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE). For each NAEP assessment, private school data are collected and included in the overall results. Private school results are also reported as a separate category in the years in which participation meets the NCES standard of at least 70% of schools in the sample. For most years, this is the case; however, for some subjects, years, and grades, the symbol † will show that the reporting standards were not met. For a detailed look at results for private and public schools, click the button below to the [Private School Quick Data Tool](#).

Click this button for the Quick Data Tool:



To see these data quickly in a more graphical format, follow the links for the subjects below. To see additional private school types (Conservative Christian, Lutheran), use the links to 2011 data tables in the [mathematics](#) and [reading](#) sections below.

Arts

- Average scale scores, public and private schools at grade 8 for [music](#) and [visual arts](#), 2008.

Civics

- Average scale scores, public and nonpublic schools at [grade 4](#), [grade 8](#), and [grade 12](#): 1998 and 2006; for 2010, at [grade 8](#) only.
- Achievement-level results, public and nonpublic schools at [grade 4](#), [grade 8](#), and [grade 12](#): 1998 and 2006; for 2010, at [grade 8](#) only.

Geography

- Average scale scores, public and nonpublic schools at [grade 4](#), [grade 8](#), and [grade 12](#): 1994, 2001, and 2010. For 2010, there are graphic results for grade 8 only; for grades 4 and 12, participation rates were not sufficient to report private school results separately.
- Achievement-level results, public and nonpublic schools at [grade 4](#), [grade 8](#), and [grade 12](#): 1994, 2001, and 2010 (for grade 8 only).

Mathematics

- Average scale scores, public, private, and Catholic schools, [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#): 1990–2011.
- Average scale scores, public and nonpublic schools, [grade 12](#): 1990–2000.
- Achievement-level results, public, private, and Catholic schools, [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#): 1990–2011.
- Achievement-level results, public and nonpublic schools, [grade 12](#): 1990–2000.
- Percentile scores, public, private, and Catholic schools, [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#): 1990–2011.
- Data tables for additional school types (including Lutheran and Conservative Christian) mathematics scores at [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#) for 2003, 2005, 2011.

Reading

- Average scale scores, public, private, and Catholic schools, [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#): 1992–2011.
- Average scale scores, public and nonpublic schools, [grade 12](#): 1990–2000.
- Achievement-level results, public, private, and Catholic schools, [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#): 1990–2011.
- Achievement-level results, public and nonpublic schools, [grade 12](#): 1990–2000.
- Percentile scores, public, private, and Catholic schools, [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#): 1990–2011.
- Data tables for additional school types (including Lutheran and Conservative Christian) reading scores at [grade 4](#) and [grade 8](#) for 2002, 2003, 2005, 2011.

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Select the data available by grade, subject, and year

View results

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If you want to...	Visit...
Find out more information about NAEP in general	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/
Learn more about the role of private schools in NAEP	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp
Read about the content development of the assessment	http://www.nagb.org/
Locate assessment results	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
View sample questions	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx

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