



# Writing School Questionnaire

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**2011**  
**Grade 8**

# SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

## GRADE 8

During the 2010–2011 school year, a sample of students across the country, including some students from your school, will be given a series of questions as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The current assessment focuses on achievement in reading, mathematics, science, and writing. As part of the assessment, NAEP will investigate the relationship between students' achievement and various school, teacher, and home factors that may influence this achievement. We are asking your school to complete this questionnaire about school factors. **This questionnaire should be completed by the principal or other head administrator.**

We realize that you are very busy; however, we urge you to complete the questionnaire as carefully as possible. The information you provide is being collected for research purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.

NAEP is authorized under Public Law 107–110. While your participation is voluntary, your responses to these questions are needed to make this survey accurate and complete.

### Instructions

**Please record your answers online, following the instructions on the front cover. If you do not have Internet access, please answer questions directly on this questionnaire by filling in the appropriate ovals.**

If you do answer questions directly on this questionnaire, please return the questionnaire to your school's NAEP coordinator when you are finished.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

## School Questionnaire – Grade 8

This questionnaire should be completed by the principal or the head of the school.

Some of the questions that follow ask you to fill in specific numbers. For those questions, please print the appropriate numbers in the boxes provided. Please PRINT LEGIBLY. Using one number per box, fill in every box. Keep all printing within the boxes. Do not make any stray marks. Use only a No. 2 pencil.

Example:  
150 would be written as

,

Examples of numerals are:

## Part I: School Characteristics and Policies

VB337248

1. What grades are taught in your school? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

- A Pre-kindergarten
- B Kindergarten
- C 1st grade
- D 2nd grade
- E 3rd grade
- F 4th grade
- G 5th grade
- H 6th grade
- I 7th grade
- J 8th grade
- K 9th grade
- L 10th grade
- M 11th grade
- N 12th grade

VB337250

2. What is the current enrollment in your school?

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VE462941

3. Approximately what percentage of eighth-graders in your school is new this year?

%

VB337256

4. Of the students currently enrolled in your school, what percentage has been identified as limited-English proficient?

- (A) 0%
- (B) 1–5%
- (C) 6–10%
- (D) 11–25%
- (E) 26–50%
- (F) 51–75%
- (G) 76–90%
- (H) Over 90%

VC310911

5. Is your school a public **charter** school?

(A charter school is a public school that, in accordance with an enabling state statute, has been granted a charter exempting it from selected state or local rules and regulations. A charter school may be a newly created school, or it may previously have been a public or private school.)

- (A) Yes
- (B) No



VC311012

6. What other type of school is this? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

**Yes**                      **No**

- a. Regular middle or secondary school                       (A)                       (B)                      VE464384
- b. A regular school with a magnet program                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311015
- c. A magnet school or a school with a special program emphasis, e.g., science/math school, performing arts school, talented/gifted school, foreign language immersion school                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311016
- d. Special education: a school that primarily serves students with disabilities                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311017
- e. Alternative: a school that offers a curriculum designed to provide alternative or nontraditional education, not clearly categorized as regular, or special education, or vocational                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311018
- f. Private (independent)                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311020
- g. Private (religiously affiliated)                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311021
- h. Privately run public school                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311022
- i. Other                       (A)                       (B)                      VC311024

HE000917

7. About what percentage of your students is absent on an average day? (Include excused and unexcused absences in calculating this rate.)

- (A) 0–2%
- (B) 3–5%
- (C) 6–10%
- (D) More than 10%



LC000488

8. About what percentage of your teachers is absent on an average day? (Include all absences in calculating this rate.)

- (A) 0–2%
- (B) 3–5%
- (C) 6–10%
- (D) More than 10%

HE000918

9. About what percentage of students who are enrolled at the beginning of the school year is still enrolled at the end of the school year? (Exclude students who transfer into the school during the school year in figuring this rate.)

- (A) 98–100%
- (B) 95–97%
- (C) 90–94%
- (D) 80–89%
- (E) 70–79%
- (F) 60–69%
- (G) 50–59%
- (H) Less than 50%

HE002230

10. About what percentage of this year's eighth-graders was held back and is repeating eighth grade?

- (A) 0%
- (B) 1–2%
- (C) 3–5%
- (D) 6–10%
- (E) More than 10%

HE002094

11. Does your school participate in the National School Lunch Program?

- Ⓐ Yes → *Go to Question 12.*
- Ⓑ No → *Skip to Question 15.*

VB556173

12. How does the school operate the program?

- Ⓐ Student eligibility is determined individually, and eligible students receive free or reduced-price lunch. → *Skip to Question 14.*
- Ⓑ All students in school receive free lunch under special provisions (e.g., Provision 2 or 3). → *Go to Question 13.*

VE382479

13. If your school distributes free lunch to all students under Provision 2 or 3, what was the base year during which individual student eligibility was collected?

- Ⓐ This school does not distribute free lunch to all students under Provision 2 or 3—eligibility is determined annually.
- Ⓑ 2010
- Ⓒ 2009
- Ⓓ 2008
- Ⓔ 2007
- Ⓕ 2006
- Ⓖ 2005 or earlier



14. During this school year, about what percentage of students in your school was eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program?

- Ⓐ 0%
- Ⓑ 1–5%
- Ⓒ 6–10%
- Ⓓ 11–25%
- Ⓔ 26–34%
- Ⓕ 35–50%
- Ⓖ 51–75%
- Ⓗ 76–99%
- Ⓘ 100%

15. Does your school receive Title I funding? (Title I is a federally funded program that provides educational services, such as remedial reading or remedial math, to children who live in areas with high concentrations of low-income families.)

- Ⓐ No
- Ⓑ Yes, our school receives funds, which are targeted to eligible students.
- Ⓒ Yes, our school receives funds, which are used for schoolwide purposes.

VB485284

16. Approximately what percentage of students in your school receives the following services? Fill in **one** oval on each line. Students who receive more than one service should be counted for each service they receive. Please report the percentage of students who receive each of the following services as of the day you respond to this questionnaire.

	None	1-5%	6-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-90%	Over 90%	
a. Targeted Title I services	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB610145
b. Gifted and talented program	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485286
c. Instruction provided in student's home language (non-English)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485287
d. English-as-a-second-language (not in a bilingual education program)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485288
e. Special education	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485289

VE101901

17. During a typical week of school, what is the total number of regularly scheduled volunteers working in the school?

- A 0
- B 1-3
- C 4-6
- D 7-10
- E More than 10

For all teacher counts entered in item 18:

INCLUDE these types of teachers:

- Regular
- Special area or resource teachers (e.g., special education, Title I, art, music, physical education)
- Long-term substitute teachers

INCLUDE these types of teachers:

- Itinerant teachers who teach part-time at this school
- Employees reported in other items of this section if they also have a part-time teaching assignment at this school

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Student teachers
- Short-term substitute teachers
- Teachers who teach ONLY pre-kindergarten or adult education

18. Around the first of October, how many TEACHERS held full-time or part-time positions or assignments in this school? *If none, mark (0) in the boxes.*

**a. Full-time**

Full-time teachers

**b. Part-time**

Part-time teachers

## Part II: Writing

1. In your school, are any of the following resources available to English/language arts teachers? Fill in **one** oval on each line. VE230116

- |  | Yes                       | No                        |          |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| a. Mentor or lead teacher assigned to help new English/language arts teachers with lesson plans, teaching strategies, classroom organization, etc.         | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | VE230117 |
| b. Mentor or lead teacher assigned to help experienced English/language arts teachers with lesson plans, teaching strategies, classroom organization, etc. | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | VE230118 |
| c. Reading and/or English/language arts specialist   | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | VE230119 |

2. Are the following activities/programs offered in your school? Fill in **one or more ovals** on each line. VE032835

- |  | Yes,<br>provided<br>by school<br>or district<br>personnel | Yes,<br>provided by<br>professionals<br>outside of<br>my school or<br>district | No                        |          |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|----------|
| a. Schoolwide writing initiative, such as specific guidelines or objectives for school writing instruction | <input type="radio"/> (A)                                 | <input type="radio"/> (B)  | <input type="radio"/> (C) | VE032874 |
| b. Literacy or writing coaching for teachers   | <input type="radio"/> (A)                                 | <input type="radio"/> (B)  | <input type="radio"/> (C) | VE032877 |
| c. Professional development in writing or teaching writing— <b>for English/language arts teachers only</b> | <input type="radio"/> (A)                                 | <input type="radio"/> (B)  | <input type="radio"/> (C) | VE032894 |
| d. Professional development in writing or teaching writing— <b>for all teachers</b>                        | <input type="radio"/> (A)                                 | <input type="radio"/> (B)  | <input type="radio"/> (C) | VE032897 |





VE230120

3. To what extent are students at your school asked to write in content areas other than English/language arts—e.g., in social studies, science, or mathematics classes?

- Ⓐ Not at all
- Ⓑ Small extent
- Ⓒ Moderate extent
- Ⓓ Large extent

VE230124

4. Does your school offer school-sponsored extracurricular activities such as clubs, competitions, fairs, or exhibits involving writing activities?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

VE230127

5. Does your school or district offer summer programs in writing remediation or enrichment to students? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	
a. Remediation	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	VE230145
b. Enrichment	<input type="radio"/> Ⓐ	<input type="radio"/> Ⓑ	VE230147

VE230150

6. How many computers does your school have for student use?

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### Part III: Supplemental Charter School Questions

This section should be completed by the principal or the head of the school. If your school is a charter school, please continue. If your school is not a charter school, you have finished the survey. Thank you for your time.

VC311248

1. Is your school a public **charter** school?

(A charter school is a public school that, in accordance with an enabling state statute, has been granted a charter exempting it from selected state or local rules and regulations. A charter school may be a newly created school, or it may previously have been a public or private school.)

- Ⓐ Yes → *Go to Question 2.*
- Ⓑ No → ***You have finished the survey. Thank you for your time.***

VC104697

2. In which year did your school start providing instruction as a charter school?

VC104703

3. Who **granted** your school's original charter?

- Ⓐ School district
- Ⓑ State board of education (includes State Board of Regents and District of Columbia Board of Education)
- Ⓒ Postsecondary institution
- Ⓓ State charter-granting agency
- Ⓔ City or state public charter school board
- Ⓕ Other



VC104758

4. Which one of the following best describes your charter school's **primary** focus in terms of program content?
- Ⓐ We have a comprehensive curriculum with no specialized area of focus.
  - Ⓑ We have a special curricular focus, for example, the arts, math/science, foreign language immersion.
  - Ⓒ Our curriculum is based on a particular educational theory, for example, Montessori, open school, Core Knowledge.
  - Ⓓ Our curriculum is based on a particular moral philosophy or set of values, for example, African-centered education, character-based education, Eastern philosophy.

VC104799

5. What is the legal status of your school?
- Ⓐ Officially part of the school district or local education agency (LEA)
  - Ⓑ Independent from the school district or local education agency (LEA)
  - Ⓒ A separate local education agency (LEA) as stipulated by state law