

APPENDIX A

National Sample Descriptions

The national and regional results presented in this report are based on nationally representative probability samples of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. The samples were selected using a multistage design involving the sampling of students from selected schools within selected geographic areas across the country. The sample design had the following stages:

- 1) selection of geographic areas (counties or groups of counties)
- 2) selection of schools (both public and nonpublic) within the selected areas
- 3) selection of students within selected schools

Each selected school that participated in the assessment, and each student assessed, represents a portion of the population of interest. To make valid inferences from the student samples to the respective populations from which they were drawn, sampling weights are needed. Sampling weights are required to account for disproportionate representation due to oversampling of students attending schools with a high concentration of Black and/or Hispanic students, and due to oversampling of students from nonpublic schools. Lower sampling rates for very small schools must also be accounted for with the sampling weights.

The national sample includes students attending domestic Department of Defense schools and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. (Students attending overseas Department of Defense schools and schools in United States territories were not sampled.)

Table A.1 summarizes the weighted and unweighted student sample sizes for the NAEP geography assessment. The numbers reported include both public and nonpublic school students.

TABLE A.1		
Unweighted and Weighted Sample Sizes by Grade for the NAEP 1994 Geography Assessment, Public and Nonpublic Schools		
	Unweighted Sample Size (and Percent of Total)	Weighted Sample Size (and Percent of Total)
Grade 4		
Nation	5,507 (100.0%)	3,530,816 (100.0%)
Region		
Northeast	1,362 (24.7%)	767,700 (21.7%)
Southeast	1,445 (26.2%)	813,351 (23.0%)
Central	1,216 (22.1%)	899,746 (25.5%)
West	1,484 (26.9%)	1,050,018 (29.7%)
Grade 8		
Nation	6,878 (100.0%)	3,447,145 (100.0%)
Region		
Northeast	1,289 (18.7%)	694,286 (20.1%)
Southeast	2,075 (30.2%)	865,529 (25.1%)
Central	1,444 (21.0%)	830,366 (24.1%)
West	2,070 (30.1%)	1,056,963 (30.7%)
Grade 12		
Nation	6,234 (100.0%)	2,542,314 (100.0%)
Region		
Northeast	1,407 (22.6%)	543,540 (21.4%)
Southeast	1,729 (27.7%)	572,658 (22.5%)
Central	1,275 (20.5%)	700,601 (27.6%)
West	1,823 (29.2%)	725,515 (28.5%)
Percentages may not total 100 percent due to rounding.		
SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1994 Geography Assessment.		



