

Measure Up

for Private Schools

NAEP News for the School Community



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The NAEP 2017 Assessments Are Here

Last spring, private schools selected to participate in NAEP 2017 were contacted by NAEP representatives to begin planning for assessment day. In the fall and early winter, private schools continued to work with NAEP representatives to plan and prepare for the assessment. Preparations included tasks such as notifying parents/guardians of their child's selection to participate in the assessment, informing NAEP representatives of any students with disabilities or English language learners requiring an accommodation, and reviewing school logistics for assessment day.

On assessment day (January 30–March 10, 2017), NAEP representatives will bring all required materials to the testing location. Examples of materials include tablets, assessment booklets, earbuds, and any ancillary materials such as rulers and calculators. NAEP representatives will set up the testing location(s) and will meet briefly with the NAEP school coordinator. Students will be instructed to report to their assigned testing location. After reviewing instructions with the NAEP

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What's Happening in the World of NAEP for Private Schools?

Winter 2017

- Private school students selected for NAEP 2017 will take the assessment between January 30–March 10, 2017. NAEP will administer assessments in mathematics, reading, and writing and pilot assessments in civics, geography, mathematics, reading, U.S. history, and writing.

Spring/Summer 2017

- The NAEP 2017 assessments will be scored in scoring centers across the country.
- Public and private schools selected to participate in the NAEP 2018 assessments will be notified and will begin preparing for the assessment.
- Results from the NAEP 2015 vocabulary assessment, a component of the reading assessment, will be released.
- Results from the NAEP 2016 arts assessment will be released.



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

Find us on:



The NAEP 2017 Assessments Are Here

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representatives, students begin the assessment. Upon completion of the assessment, NAEP representatives pack up all materials and return the testing location to the same condition in which it was found.

For more information about the NAEP 2017 assessments, read the fall 2016 Measure Up for Private Schools article, “NAEP 2017 Program for Private Schools” at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/about/pdf/schools/2016_naep_measure_up_for_private_school_fall.pdf or visit The Nation’s Report Card website at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>.

No NAEP 2015 Science Results for Private Schools Overall

The NAEP 2015 science assessment for grades 4 and 8 were administered January 26–March 6, 2015. Results were released in late October of 2016 and may be viewed on The Nation’s Report Card website at <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>. Participation of private schools was an important component of overall national results and made it possible to report those results. However, not enough non-Catholic private

schools agreed to participate in the 2015 assessment, and benchmarks for reporting results for private schools overall were not met. More information about the participation of private schools in the NAEP 2015 assessments can be found in the Winter 2016 edition of this newsletter at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/about/pdf/schools/measure_up_for_private_schools_winter_2016.pdf.

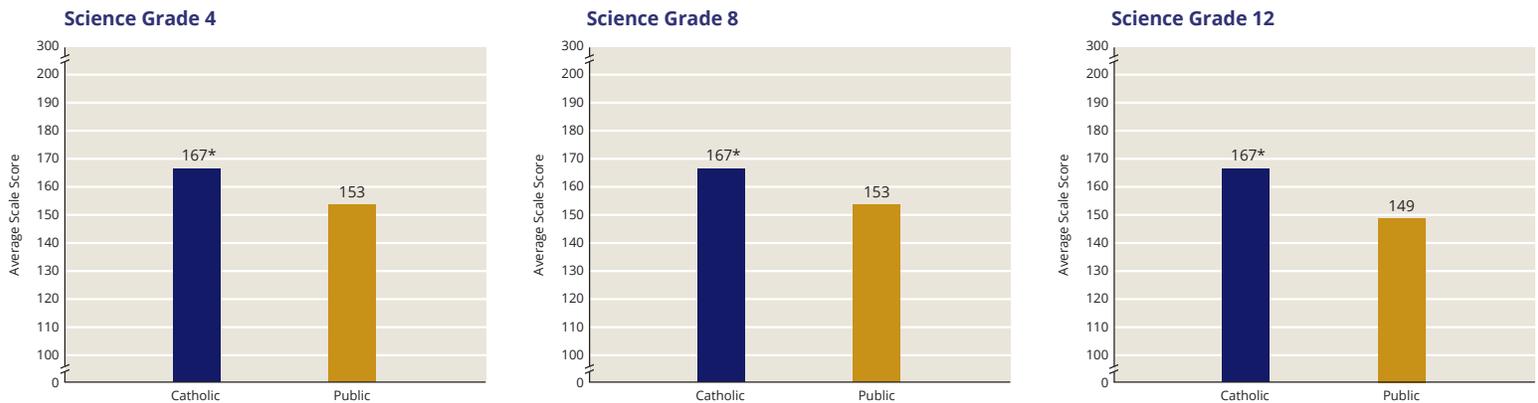
NAEP 2015 Science Results for Catholic Schools

In 2015, the most recent year for which science results are available, results for Catholic schools, whose students comprise about 40 percent of all private schools overall,

are available. Students from Catholic schools on average had higher scale scores than students from public schools in science at all three grades.

Science 2015

Catholic School and National Public Student Performance

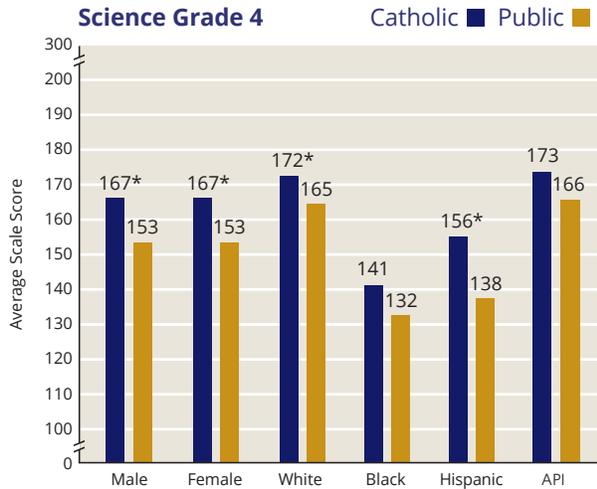


*Significantly different ($p < .05$) from public schools. NAEP scale scores in science range from 0 to 300.

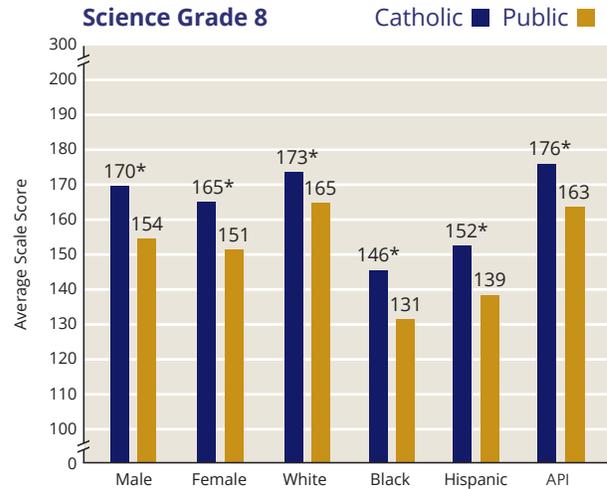
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2015 Science Assessment.

Science

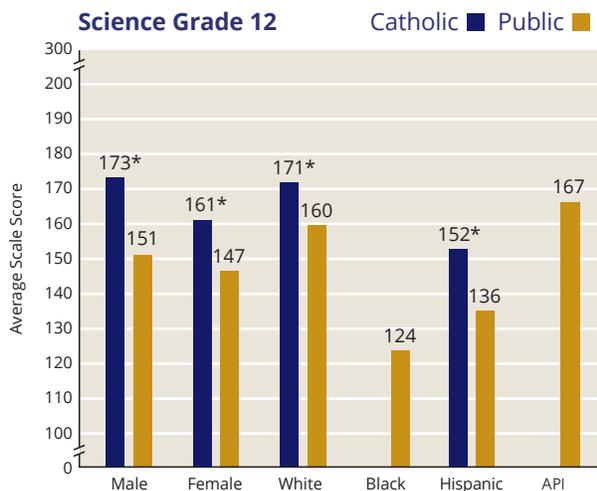
Catholic School and National Public Student Performance on NAEP by Demographic Group



In 2015, male and female Catholic school students at grade 4 on average scored higher than their counterparts in public schools. Within racial/ethnic demographic groups, Catholic school students on average had higher scale scores than public school students among the White and Hispanic groups. There were no significant differences between Black or Asian/Pacific Islander (API) students in Catholic and public schools.



In 2015, male and female Catholic school students at grade 8 on average scored higher than their counterparts in public schools. Within racial/ethnic demographic groups, Catholic school students on average had higher scale scores than public school students among the White, Black, Hispanic, and API groups.



In 2015, male and female Catholic school students at grade 12 on average scored higher than their counterparts in public schools. Within racial/ethnic demographic groups, Catholic school students on average had higher scale scores than public school students among the White and Hispanic groups. Results are not shown for Black or API students in Catholic schools because reporting standards were not met for these groups.

*Significantly different (p<.05) from public schools. NAEP scale scores in science range from 0 to 300.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2015 Science Assessment.

More Information

For more specific results and an overview of NAEP data for private and Catholic schools, you can access the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE), which provides detailed results from NAEP assessments. The data are based on information gathered from students, teachers, and schools who participated in NAEP assessments. To access the NDE, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata>.

NAEP Behind the Scenes

Learn more about the people who work behind the scenes to make NAEP the gold standard of assessments.



In this interview, we talk with Carol Widegren, a NAEP representative based in Illinois. Specifically, Carol is a NAEP assessment coordinator (AC) leading assessment teams that administer the assessment in schools. Carol works with private schools selected for NAEP to answer questions schools may have about participation in the assessment

and ensure that preparation is smooth and efficient for the private school coordinators.

How long have you worked on NAEP? What position did you hold prior to joining NAEP?

I have been working on NAEP projects since 2010, having retired as an assistant principal at a large, urban public high school. As a school administrator, my responsibilities included all aspects of planning and organization of the school day, as well as state and national assessments and working with adults and children in and out of the school setting. Many of the skills I used in my school apply directly to my role as AC—planning and organizing, with attention to detail being the most important aspect of the job.

What is the most satisfying part of your job? Is there anything you find particularly satisfying about working with private schools?

The most satisfying part of the job as AC comes at the end of the assessment. It is the culmination of many hours of working with the school coordinator to plan the day, and working with the students and my team to make sure everyone is comfortable and feeling positive about the experience. When working with the staff and students in a private school, I feel they have a certain mindfulness about them. They are very focused on the task and feel privileged to have been included in the project. It is so important that children from all types of schools be included in NAEP.

What is the value of NAEP for private schools?

Why do you think private schools should participate?

While no individual school or student receives the results of the NAEP assessment, the experience of taking the assessment is a valuable one. It gives students the opportunity to work on tablet computers, solve problems using critical thinking skills, and learn from various animations and scenarios that are posed to them during the assessment. I think these experiences are of value to students in a private school setting and a benefit to the private school—the learning experience outside of the “regular” day’s activities.

Describe an assessment day, from your perspective, in a private school. What should a school expect?

Assessment day begins with the NAEP team arriving about an hour before the scheduled assessment time. Once we check in with the office staff, the team sets up the equipment and network. The AC meets with the school coordinator to see if there have been any changes to the plans discussed over the phone—absent students, school events, or activities that may have been added to the day, etc. Once the NAEP materials have been organized, the classroom teachers bring the students to the testing location. As they enter the room, the students are seated at their assigned tablet computer (or paper and pencil booklet). The NAEP team introduces themselves and the assessment begins. (We ask a staff person to remain with the class if at all possible while the students work. School personnel know the students and school policies best, making the students more at ease with the process.) Once the assessment is complete, the students return to their normal schedule, and the NAEP team packs up all of the materials. The AC asks a few follow-up questions of the school coordinator and thanks the coordinator for allowing us to administer the assessment to the students. We make every effort not to be a disruption to their day.

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To learn more about private school participation in NAEP, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>.

To read other NAEP Experience interviews, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools_measureup.aspx.

Did your private school participate in NAEP? Would you like to tell us about your experience?

Send us an email at MeasureUpforPrivateSchools@westat.com.