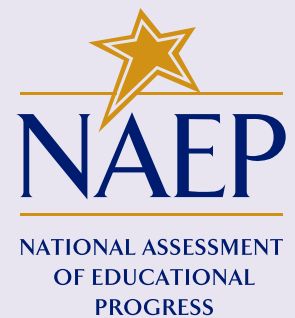


NAEP 2017

Facts for Teachers



NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States.

- Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.
- NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. While states have their own unique assessments with different content standards, the same NAEP assessment is administered in every state, providing a common measure of student achievement.
- Depending on the type of NAEP assessment that is administered, the data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).
- To provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that may be related to students' learning, students, teachers, and principals who participate in NAEP are asked to complete contextual questionnaires.

“As an educator, I find the contextual information that NAEP provides to be particularly valuable. It helps me take a closer look at the factors related to student achievement across the country.”

Ann M. Finch, Dover Middle School, Dover, AR

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in subjects such as civics, geography, mathematics, reading, U.S. history, and writing. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card.

As teachers, you are essential partners in NAEP. You make an important contribution by encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

Teachers can use NAEP questions as an educational resource in the classroom. With the NAEP Questions Tool, you can view released NAEP items, create customized assessments for your classroom, and compare your students' performance with national results. Most released items include a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt> to learn more.

NAEP Digitally Based Assessments

The NAEP program has evolved to address the changing educational landscape through its transition to digitally based assessments. An increasing number of schools are making digital tools an integral part of the learning environment. These changes reflect that the knowledge and skills needed for future postsecondary success involve the use of new technologies. In 2017, NAEP will be administered on touch-screen tablets with keyboards at grades 4 and 8. Students will participate in writing assessments as well as assessments in mathematics and reading. Students in grade 8 will also participate in pilot assessments in U.S. history, geography, and civics. These new, digitally based assessments allow NAEP to collect new types of data that provide depth in our understanding of what students know and can do in various subjects.

NAEP's digitally based assessments will use new testing methods and item types that reflect the growing use of technology in education. Some questions may include multimedia, such as audio and video. Other questions may allow the use of embedded technological features (such as an onscreen calculator) to form a response or may engage students in solving problems within realistic scenarios. Learn more about NAEP digitally based assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba>.



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

Find us on:   

NAEP DBA Tutorials Available Online

In support of the transition from paper-and-pencil assessments to digitally based assessments (DBA) administered to students on touch-screen tablets, NAEP has created tutorials for students, parents, and teachers to review before the scheduled DBA assessment. The subject-specific tutorials are designed to teach students about the system, tools, and features they will use to take the tablet-based assessment. To view tutorials for the 2016 assessments, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba/default.aspx>. Check back later this fall to view updates for the 2017 assessments.

NAEPQ—Feedback to Teachers and Schools

NAEP survey questionnaires are also completed by principals and teachers in schools that participate in NAEP. Now preliminary results may be previewed from the latest school and teacher questionnaires with the NAEPQ tool. Results include school characteristics and classroom organization for locales, jurisdictions, and states across the country. (Preliminary results from student survey questionnaires are not available.) The tool guides you through the process of creating a customized report in three easy steps:

- Step 1: Choose the survey you would like to explore.
- Step 2: Optionally set school location and composition criteria. You can drill down by public, private, and other types of schools and, when available, even narrow your results down to the state and district levels.
- Step 3: Choose the type of report you would like to view. Some options include School Demographics, Curriculum Content, and Instructional Resources.

Learn more about the NAEPQ tool today at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/educators>.

The NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment

Because of the growing importance of technology and engineering in the educational landscape, NAEP has created the first-ever technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment. This interactive, digitally based assessment measures what students know about technology and engineering in the same way that NAEP already assesses their knowledge and capabilities in reading, mathematics, science, and other subjects.

In 2014, the TEL assessment was administered to a national sample of eighth-grade students in public and private schools. In addition to responding to short-answer and multiple-choice questions, students were

asked to perform a variety of computer-based tasks to solve problems within scenarios that reflect realistic situations. These scenario-based tasks are an innovative component of NAEP. The TEL assessment was accompanied by a questionnaire that focuses on students' opportunities to learn about technology and engineering both inside and outside the classroom. The TEL assessment results were released in May 2016. To explore the results and view sample scenario-based tasks, visit http://www.nationsreportcard.gov/tel_2014.

The NAEP Program

The following assessments will be administered in 2017:

- Civics, geography, and U.S. history—Grade 8
- Mathematics—Grades 4 and 8
- Reading—Grades 4 and 8
- Writing—Grades 4 and 8

All of the above assessments will be administered in a digitally based format. Most fourth- and eighth-grade students will take the mathematics or reading assessments on tablets with keyboards. A subset of students will take paper-and-pencil versions of one of these two assessments. Some students will also take pilot digitally based assessments in mathematics or reading. Civics, geography, and U.S. history will be administered as pilot digitally based assessments. Results from the pilots will not be released, but will be used to prepare for the full transition to digitally based assessments by the end of the decade.

Each student will be assessed in only one subject and format. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools on assessment day. Schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment, desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location; schools will not need to provide internet access.

Get the latest NAEP news in the Fall 2016 edition of *Measure Up: NAEP News for the School Community*, available online at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx>.

Recent NAEP Findings

2014 TEL Assessment Results—Grade 8

43% of eighth-grade students performed at or above *Proficient* in TEL.

Female students outperformed male students overall.

Students in city schools scored lower overall compared to their peers in suburban, town, and rural schools.

2014 TEL Survey Questionnaire Results—Grade 8

76% of students reported studying technology or engineering topics in their mathematics, science, social studies, or history class.

63% of students reported that their family members taught them most of what they know about building and fixing things.

77% of students reported building or testing a model in school to see if it solves a problem.

Visit http://www.nationsreportcard.gov/tel_2014 for complete results from the TEL assessment and to view TEL sample tasks that were used in the assessment.

NAEP Survey Questionnaires

Each year, students who take the NAEP assessments also complete NAEP survey questionnaires. These survey questionnaires are used to collect contextual information about students' opportunities to learn in and outside of the classroom as well as their educational experiences. NAEP survey questionnaires can provide a rich database for educators, policymakers, and researchers to conduct in-depth analyses and put student achievement results into context. It also allows for meaningful comparison between student groups and offers a better understanding of the context in which students learn.

NAEP survey questionnaires are voluntary. While respondents are encouraged to answer as many questions as they feel comfortable with, they can skip any part of the survey questionnaire by leaving the response to a question blank.

Here are two questions from the NAEP teacher survey questionnaire for the 2015 mathematics assessment:

1. How many hours of mathematics instruction do your students receive in a typical week?
 - A. Less than 3 hours
 - B. At least 3 hours, but less than 5 hours
 - C. At least 5 hours, but less than 7 hours
 - D. 7 or more hours
2. Are computers available for use by you or your students?
 - A. Yes, computers are available to my students and to me.
 - B. Yes, I have access to computers, but my students do not.
 - C. No, neither my students nor I have access to computers at school.

To learn more about NAEP survey questionnaires, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.aspx>.

It's important to know that...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. Students in grades 4 and 8 are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years and in other subjects in alternating years. In 2002, NAEP began the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program, which measures what students know and can do in some of the nation's large urban districts. NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

Special studies are also conducted periodically.

They are administered as part of NAEP and require no additional effort from schools and students. These studies often involve special data collection procedures in the field, secondary analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality.

From the development of frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation. NAEP is administered by highly trained representatives, most of whom are former teachers or principals. NAEP is a trusted resource that measures student progress and helps inform policy decisions that improve education in the United States.

NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction. It takes up to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities, including transition time, directions, and completion of a student questionnaire. You do not need to prepare your students to take the assessment but should encourage them to do their best. NAEP representatives provide significant support by working with your school's designated coordinator to organize assessment activities.

NAEP reports on results for different demographic groups rather than for individual students or schools. NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process to ensure that the schools and students selected are representative of schools and students across the United States. To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, NAEP allows a broad range of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners.

NAEP Results

Since 1969, NAEP has produced many reports chronicling the performance of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. Information is reported by race/ethnicity, gender, type of school, and by both achievement level and scale scores. You can access data from previous assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata> and explore the most recent results at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

NAEP also disseminates information from data collected on student, teacher, and school survey questionnaires. This information can be used to inform parents, the public, and education policymakers about our nation's educational environment. Learn more about these results at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.aspx>.

Visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> to access this information and more.



"The NAEP team that arrived at our school made the assessment process painless. Everyone on the team previously worked as an educator and interacted well with all of our students. The technology-based assessment our students took kept them actively engaged throughout the session."

— Kimberly Wilborn, Assessment Coach, Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria, VA

More About NAEP

To hear teachers share their thoughts about why NAEP results are important, view the video *Introducing NAEP to Teachers* at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/teachervideo>.

To learn what NAEP means for schools selected to participate, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.asp>.

To learn about upcoming NAEP assessments, download NAEP reports, and access sample questions, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

Call the NAEP help desk at 800-283-6237.

To find your NAEP state coordinator, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>, select your state on the map, and scroll down to Contact Information.

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Get NAEP on the go with the *NAEP Results* mobile app!