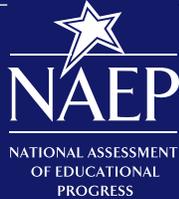


# Measure Up

## for Private Schools

NAEP News for the School Community



### In This Edition

NAEP 2017 Program for Private Schools

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

NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy Results for Private Schools Released in May 2016

The NAEP Experience

NAEP Behind the Scenes

Fall 2016



## NAEP 2017 Program for Private Schools

In 2017, the NAEP assessments will be administered between January 30 and March 10 to students in grades 4 and 8 throughout the nation on NAEP-provided tablets. Students participating in NAEP will be assessed on tablets with keyboards in mathematics, reading, and writing. A small number of fourth- and eighth-grade students will take paper-and-pencil versions of the mathematics and reading assessments to help NAEP evaluate any differences in student performance between the two types of administration.

The NAEP 2017 assessment will be the first time that NAEP will report data collected via tablets. Some students may participate in pilot digitally based assessments in mathematics and reading (grades 4 and 8) and civics, geography, and U.S. history (grade 8). Each student will be assessed in only one subject and in one type of administration.

To learn more about digitally based pilot assessments, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba>.

Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx> to learn more about the NAEP 2017 program in private schools.



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

Find us on:



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

### Summer 2016

- The results of the NAEP 2014 technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment were released for public and private schools in May.
- NAEP 2016 arts assessment was scored in scoring centers across the country.

### Fall 2016

- Results from the NAEP 2015 science assessment conducted in grades 4 and 8 will be released.
- NAEP representatives will help private schools selected for NAEP 2017 prepare for the assessment.

### Winter 2016-17

- Private school students selected for NAEP 2017 will take the assessment between January 30 and 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. Read more about these assessments in the NAEP 2017 Program for Private Schools section.

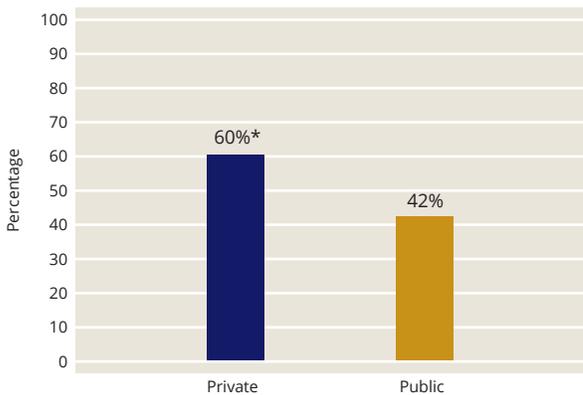
## NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy Results for Private Schools Released in May 2016

In winter 2014 the NAEP technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment was administered to a national sample of eighth-grade students in public and private schools. The TEL assessment measured students' ability to apply technology and engineering skills to real-life situations. TEL marks a departure from the typical NAEP assessment design because it was completely computer based and included interactive scenario-based tasks—an innovative component of NAEP. Students were asked to perform a variety of these interactive tasks to solve problems within realistic scenarios. Examples of interactive tasks are available in the interactive version of the TEL framework. In addition to scenario-based tasks, TEL also relied on short-answer and multiple-choice questions to measure students' knowledge and skills. *Measure Up for Private Schools* featured articles about the NAEP 2014 TEL assessment in the Spring/Summer 2016 and Winter 2016 editions. Past editions of

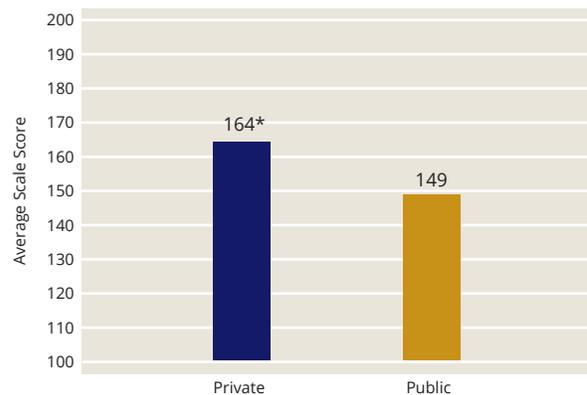
*Measure Up for Private Schools* can be found at [http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools\\_measureup.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools_measureup.aspx).

NAEP achievement levels are intended to measure how well students' actual achievement matches the achievement desired of them in different subjects assessed by NAEP. There are three achievement levels for each grade assessed by NAEP: *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. In 2014, a significantly larger percentage of students in private schools scored at or above the *Proficient* achievement level than students in public schools. Cut scores represent the minimum score on the NAEP scale required for performance at each NAEP achievement level. TEL results are reported on a scale of 0 to 300, and the cut scores for TEL are as follows: *Basic* is 116; *Proficient* is 158; and *Advanced* is 209. Students from private schools on average had higher scale scores than students from public schools in TEL at grade 8.

**NAEP TEL Achievement Levels**  
Percentage of Students At or Above Proficient



**NAEP TEL Average Scale Scores**



\*Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from public schools. NAEP scale scores in technology and engineering literacy 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) 2014 Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment.

Learn more about the TEL assessment by watching the Introduction to the TEL Assessment, Overview of TEL Tasks, and Tutorial for the TEL Assessment videos at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel>.

Explore more TEL results and other assessment results for private schools at [http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/private\\_school\\_quick\\_data.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/private_school_quick_data.aspx).

# The NAEP Experience

Private school organization leaders, teachers, and staff discuss their experiences with NAEP.



**In this section, we interview private school organization leaders, teachers, principals, heads of school, or other school staff who are participating in the upcoming NAEP assessments or experienced NAEP in their private school. Read about Joe McTighe, Executive Director of the Council for**

**American Private Education (CAPE).**

## *How long have you been an educator?*

I've been in education in one form or another for 47 years, since 1969, starting as a Catholic school teacher, then principal, then an administrator in a diocesan office, then education director for a state Catholic conference, and finally, since 1996, executive director at CAPE.

## *Tell us a little about your organization.*

CAPE is a coalition of national organizations and state affiliates serving private elementary and secondary schools. There are more than 30,000 private schools in America; in fact, about one in four of the nation's schools is a private school. More than 5 million students (about 10 percent of all students) attend them. CAPE member organizations and state affiliates represent about 80 percent of private school enrollment nationwide. Our mission is to preserve and promote educational pluralism so that parents have a choice in the schooling of their children.

## *Why did you choose to get involved in education?*

## *What role(s) do you think private schools play in the education system of the United States?*

I've been blessed in that all my life I've believed that the job I had at any given time was the job I was supposed to have. There always seemed to be a good fit between what I was suited to do and what I was actually doing. That has been a source of great contentment in my life.

Private schools help fulfill the American ideal of pluralism and give parents the chance to find the setting that best serves the needs of their children and their family. Our nation is blessed by a rich diversity of schools—some rooted in a particular religious tradition, some that provide intensive academic experiences, and some that are specialized for specific populations. Whether public or private, these diverse schools constitute the American educational experience and share a worthy goal: the

education of our country's children. Together, public and private schools work to educate the American public; together, they strive to help students reach their potential and contribute to the common good.

## *Your organization has been extremely supportive of NAEP for many years. Why does your organization endorse NAEP and encourage school participation?*

NAEP is THE gold standard in providing a comprehensive picture of student achievement in the United States. Private school students are an essential element of American education. They're part of the American family. You just don't have a complete picture of American education without them.

## *What value does NAEP have for the private school community?*

NAEP results help tell the private school story. They provide parents, policymakers, and the public at large with an idea of how students in private schools are doing. The reality is, whatever the grade level, whatever the subject matter, those students consistently perform above the national average. The only way we know that is through NAEP.

## *What advice would you tell a private school that is making a decision about participating in NAEP?*

I would strongly encourage that school to participate. The only way we get to find out how private school students perform on NAEP is when enough schools participate to produce reliable and reportable results. We've had some years when that has not happened, and it's very disappointing not to have the data. We rely on school administrators to step up and say yes when asked.

## *Is there anything else you would like to tell us about participating in NAEP or about your organization?*

I think it's the civic duty of private school leaders to participate in NAEP when asked. We teach our students to be good citizens. We can model that teaching by being good citizens ourselves and participating in an activity that advances the public good. You can't make good policy decisions without good information. NAEP provides the country with solid information about student performance. It is reliable and consistent; it lets us see trends, and there is simply no other measure of performance that is as comprehensive as NAEP.

# 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 Mary Erbe, a NAEP representative based in Kentucky. Mary works with private schools selected for NAEP to answer questions schools may have about participation in the NAEP assessment and ensure that preparation for the assessment is smooth and efficient for the private school coordinators.**

## *Describe your current role in NAEP.*

I am currently working two components of NAEP. I am the field manager for Gaining Cooperation of Private Schools, and I lead a team of eight recruiters who contact private schools and encourage them to be a part of NAEP. Also, I am a hiring field manager and work with two hiring supervisors to hire enough quality staff to conduct the NAEP assessment in my states. Both are challenging jobs.

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

I have worked on NAEP for 25 years. I started as an assessment administrator, and worked my way up through the ranks as a supervisor to my present position of field manager for Gaining Cooperation of Private Schools. Gaining cooperation is my favorite component of NAEP and one of the most challenging. I lead, supervise, and mentor a team of gaining cooperation recruiters. Our goal is to have 70 percent of the selected private schools participate in NAEP in order to report their results. My previous work in a private school gives me insight into the private school life and what their needs are when participating in NAEP.

## *What in your past training and experience best prepared for you for current job?*

I worked in a private school, and I feel that has been of great benefit in my present work with NAEP. I also was

raised in a large family where sharing was a priority. Sharing is a necessity in NAEP, whether it is sharing ideas or sharing staff.

## *What is the most satisfying part of your job?*

Participation is a win-win for everyone: school, teachers, and most of all, every student in the country. The most satisfying part of gaining cooperation is speaking with principals, explaining about NAEP, and having them say they will participate, even though they might have refused in the past.

## *What is the most challenging?*

If I encounter hesitation to participate in NAEP on the part of principals, I first listen to their concerns and work with them to find a solution. We can be flexible about time, date, almost every part of NAEP. Our teams, made up mostly of retired educators, bring all necessary materials at no cost to the school. Teachers can use the assessment time as a planning period, and students can receive a Certificate of Community Service.

## *What is the value of NAEP for private schools? Why should they participate?*

Participation is a win-win for everyone: school, teachers, and most of all, every student in the country. NAEP is invaluable in that it gives government leaders and educators a statistical overview of what all students know and can do in core subjects, both large and small, urban and rural, affluent and less affluent schools. Past NAEP results show how well private school scores hold up when compared to public school scores.

## *Is there anything else you would like to share with us?*

NAEP has been a big part of my life. I have met and worked with such wonderful people and been to places I would never have had the opportunity to visit if not for NAEP. Every day has been an adventure, and I am truly grateful for the opportunities I have been given.

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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](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](mailto:MeasureUpforPrivateSchools@westat.com).