

Facts for Teachers

Private Schools

“NAEP is designed to assess how our nation’s youth are making progress in their education. To ensure an equitable assessment, it is very important for private schools to participate in NAEP.”

— Muhammad Kabir, College Preparatory School of America, Lombard, IL



The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what students in public and private schools know and can do in various subjects. First administered in 1969, NAEP collects and reports information on student trends and performance and compares the achievement of students in public schools with that of students in private schools. Private schools represent about 23 percent of the schools in the nation and educate approximately 9 percent of the nation’s students and are a critical component of the NAEP program. Private school data are essential to providing a complete and accurate picture of education in the United States and to future policy decisions. The results of NAEP are released to the public as The Nation’s Report Card.



2017

All About NAEP



As private school teachers, you are essential partners in NAEP. You make an important contribution by sharing your class time and 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 a resource in the classroom. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt> to create online self-scoring tests for students and see how the performance of students in private schools compares nationally with that of public school students on specific items. Released items generally come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. Students can try NAEP questions by visiting <http://nationsreportcard.gov/testyourself.aspx>.

Teachers can watch the NAEP teacher video. The video provides an overview of the assessment as well as tips on how to support students selected to participate. Watch it at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/teachervideo>.

Teachers can also view the private school video. Hear teachers and heads of school describe their experiences with the NAEP assessment and the value of NAEP to private schools in an online video, *Private Schools and NAEP: A National Conversation*. Watch the video at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>.

Highlights of the NAEP 2017 Program

In 2017, the NAEP assessments will be administered to students throughout the nation on NAEP-provided tablets. The following grades and subjects will be assessed:

Grade	Operational Subjects	Pilot Subjects
4	Mathematics, Reading, Writing	Mathematics, Reading
8	Mathematics, Reading, Writing	Civics, Geography, Mathematics, Reading, U.S. History

Most fourth- and eighth-grade students will take the mathematics and reading assessments on tablets with keyboards. A small number of fourth- and eighth-grade students will take paper-and-pencil versions of the mathematics and reading assessments to evaluate any difference in student performance between the two types of administration. Results for pilot assessments will not be released but will be used to prepare for future assessments.





Each student will be assessed in only one subject and in one type of administration. Students will spend about 120 minutes completing the assessment, which includes transition time and directions and completion of a questionnaire. The questionnaire provides contextual information about students' opportunities to learn inside and outside of the classroom as well as their educational experiences. 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.

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

It's important to know that...

NAEP causes minimal disruption for teachers and students.

No advance preparation for teachers or for students is necessary. Trained NAEP representatives, employed by a contractor to the National Center for Education Statistics, administer NAEP.

Including all students is essential. To ensure that student achievement is accurately reported, students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) are encouraged to participate in the NAEP assessments. Many accommodations are allowed during the assessment, such as extended time, breaks during the test, and a separate setting. Teachers of SD and ELL students selected for the assessment are asked to provide information to determine how these students will be assessed on NAEP.

NAEP is confidential. No one involved in administering NAEP keeps personal information on teachers or students after the assessments are completed. There are no results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

How NAEP reports results...

Since 1969, NAEP has produced many reports chronicling trends over time in student performance. Results for private schools are generally reported as overall private schools results and for two groups of private schools, Catholic and Other Private schools.

NAEP also disseminates information from data collected on student, teacher, and school contextual questionnaires. This information can be used to inform parents, the public, and education policymakers about our nation's educational environment. You can access data from previous assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata> and explore the most recent results at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>. For a quick, but detailed, look at results for private schools explore the NAEP Private School Quick Data tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/private_school_quick_data.aspx.

Highlights of Recent NAEP Release

Technology and Engineering Literacy Assessment

In May 2016, NAEP released results of the first-ever nationally representative assessment of technology and engineering literacy. The assessment used innovative, scenario-based tasks on computers to measure eighth-graders' understanding of the use and effects of technology in their lives. Highlights of results included:

- Sixty percent of private school students scored at or above *Proficient* compared to 42 percent of public school students.
- Students in private schools had an average scale score of 164, which was higher than that of public school students (149).
- Male and female private school students on average scored higher than their counterparts in public schools. Within racial/ethnic demographic groups, private school students had higher scale scores than public school students on average among the White, Black, and Hispanic groups.
- Fifty-eight percent of private school students attend schools that offer courses or afterschool programs that cover technology or engineering concepts. Private school students who attend schools that offer these programs had an average scale score of 168 compared to 152 for students in public schools that offer these programs.
- Twenty-four percent of private school students indicated that they are currently taking or have taken a technology-related course. Private school students who are currently taking or have taken a technology-related course had an average scale score of 170, which was higher than public school students, who had an average scale score of 160.
- Students in private schools whose administrators reported that over 75 percent of teachers participated in technology professional development focused on curriculum, content, or pedagogy had an average scale score of 164, which was higher than public school students, who had an average scale score of 154.

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