



2017

NAEP in Your Private School

Mathematics and Reading Assessments

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.

- First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's public and private school students know and can do in various subjects.
- NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists and teachers from around the nation.
- The schools and students participating in NAEP make an important contribution by representing other schools and students across the country.
- NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card.

Why assess private schools?

Private school data are essential for examining the picture of education in the United States and informing future policy decisions. Private schools represent about 23 percent of schools in the nation and educate approximately 9 percent of the nation's students. NAEP has consistently demonstrated how the performance of students in private schools compares positively to the performance of students in public schools.

Why participate in NAEP?

Your school has been selected to represent other private schools across the nation. Your participation is needed to ensure a complete picture of the academic progress of the nation's students, and it is vital that all selected students participate in NAEP. Schools, students, and teachers who participate in NAEP provide a valuable community service and enable The Nation's Report Card to provide a more inclusive picture of what our nation's students know and can do in key subject areas.

NAEP has the support of numerous private school organizations, including the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

The NAEP 2017 program in your school

From January 30 to March 10, 2017, NAEP will be administered in schools across the country. Students at grades 4 and 8 will participate in mathematics and reading assessments conducted on tablets. A small number of students may take paper and pencil assessments in these subjects. NAEP is administering the assessments via both tablets and paper booklets to evaluate any differences in student performance between the two types of administration. Each student will be assessed in only one subject and in one type of assessment administration. NAEP representatives will bring all materials and equipment, including tablets, to the school on assessment day. Students will spend approximately 120 minutes completing the assessment, which includes transition time and directions and completion of a student questionnaire. The questionnaire provides contextual information about students' opportunities to learn inside and outside the classroom as well as their educational experiences.

The school principal and the grade 4 and 8 teachers of the subjects being assessed will also be asked to complete a questionnaire. NAEP collects information from schools and teachers to provide a more complete understanding of the results. Topics such as classroom experience, teacher training, and school policies can be valuable information for education stakeholders who need to gain a better picture of student performance.

The results of the assessment will be released as The Nation's Report Card.

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For more information about NAEP visit:

- Program overview
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>
- Private school participation
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>

“Private schools have participated in NAEP for decades, and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) supports NAEP and encourages your participation.”

Joe McTighe
Executive Director, CAPE

What are the responsibilities of NAEP representatives?

NAEP representatives work directly with schools and are responsible for

- Confirming the assessment date and time with the school
- Providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eligible students from which a random sample will be selected for participation in the assessment
- Providing schools with information about notifying parents of selected students
- Providing resources, guidelines, and support to assist the school coordinator in completing activities and finalizing assessment arrangements
- Bringing all assessment materials and equipment, including tablets, to the school on assessment day
- Conducting the assessments
- Responding to questions from the school throughout the assessment period

What are the responsibilities of the principal and school coordinator?

The principal is responsible for

- Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar
- Designating a school coordinator to work with NAEP representatives and to prepare for the assessment
- Informing school staff about NAEP and why participation is critically important
- Completing the school questionnaire

The school coordinator is responsible for

- Confirming that the suggested assessment date works with the school calendar
- Securing space for the assessment to take place
- Supporting teachers' access to the teacher questionnaires
- Providing a list of eligible students from which a random sample will be selected for participation in the assessment (student names will always be kept confidential)
- Informing parents
- Completing preassessment activities with guidance and support from NAEP representatives
- Ensuring that students attend the session on the assessment date

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