

# An Introduction to **NAEP for Private Schools**



# 2015



“CAPE supports NAEP as an accurate measure of student achievement in the United States. Participation is essential for producing private school results. We urge schools to do so.”

*- Joe McTighe, Executive Director,  
Council for American Private Education (CAPE)*

# An Introduction to NAEP 2015

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. It is referred to as the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality and because it represents the best thinking of assessment specialists, education experts, teachers and content specialists from around the nation. NAEP results are released as The Nation's Report Card.

Teachers, parents, policymakers and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States. NAEP is a trusted resource and has been providing valid and reliable data on student performance since 1969.

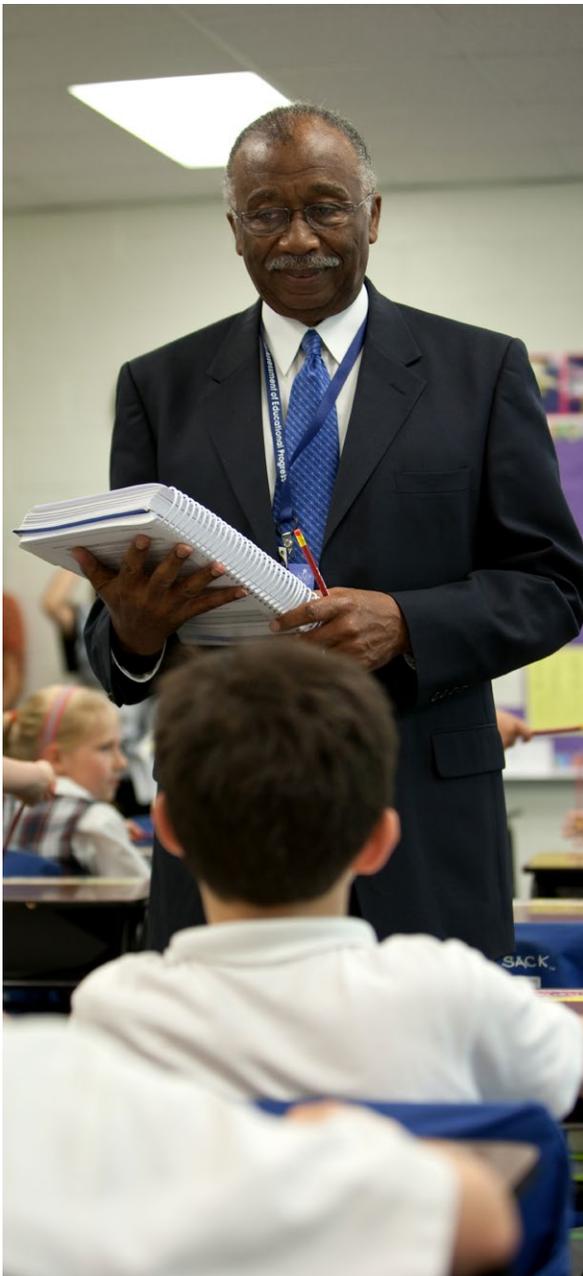
NAEP is an essential measure of student achievement in both public and private schools. Note the following:

- The schools and students selected to take the assessment represent the diversity of our nation's schools and students.
- NAEP reports on student achievement nationally. Individual school and student names or scores are never identified due to strict confidentiality guidelines that NAEP follows.

## **The NAEP Program for 2015**

More than 1,900 private schools have been selected to participate in the NAEP 2015 assessment. Between January 26 and March 6, 2015, NAEP will be administered to a sample of fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students in mathematics, reading, and science. During this period NAEP will begin the transition of these assessments from paper-and-pencil to technology-based assessments. Technology-based assessments will be administered on tablets. Through technology-based assessments, NAEP aims to collect new types of data that provide depth in our understanding of what students know and can do, including how students engage with technology to approach problem solving.

Some schools will take the traditional paper-and-pencil assessments, while other schools will be asked to take a pilot technology-based assessment on tablets. Results will only be released for the paper-and-pencil assessments. Results from the pilots will be used to prepare for the full transition to technology-based assessments by the end of the decade. Students will take NAEP in one format and one subject only, and NAEP representatives will bring all materials and equipment to schools on assessment day.



### **Who determines the content of NAEP?**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a division within the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences, administers the assessment. NCES is responsible for the development of the questions, the administration of the assessment, scoring, conducting analyses, and reporting the results. Each NAEP assessment is built from a content framework that specifies what students should know and be able to do in a given subject and grade. The National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for NAEP, oversees the creation of the NAEP frameworks.

“The National Catholic Educational Association encourages the participation of its schools in NAEP and the use of the data reports by Catholic school administrators and teachers.”

– Br. Robert R. Bimonte, FSC, President,  
National Catholic Educational Association

### **How was my school selected?**

Each year, a new sample of schools is drawn for NAEP. The sample is based on data from the Private School Universe Survey (PSS). The PSS collects and stores data on more than 30,000 private schools in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The number of private schools sampled for NAEP varies from year to year, depending on the number of subjects being assessed and the extent of reporting for different types of private schools.

# The Importance of Private School Participation

Private schools have participated in NAEP for decades and are an integral part of providing a complete picture of U.S. education.

Private schools represent about 24 percent of schools in the nation and educate approximately 9 percent of our nation's students. Without the participation of private schools in NAEP, any report of trends in student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels would be incomplete. By participating, your students have an important role in representing thousands of other private school students throughout the country.

NAEP has consistently demonstrated how the performance of students in private schools compares positively to that of students in public schools and the rest of the nation. The performance of students attending private schools can be examined on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>.

## Endorsements

More than 30 national, regional, and state private school organizations have provided letters endorsing private school participation in NAEP for 2015. These organizations include the Council for American Private Education, the National Catholic Educational Association, and the National Association of Independent Schools.

"As a school administrator, I was always pleased with NAEP personnel and the process each time our school was asked to participate. I believe that NAEP should reflect the diversity of education in America, and I encourage our schools to participate."

- Jeff Walton, Executive Director,  
American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS)

## Private School Results

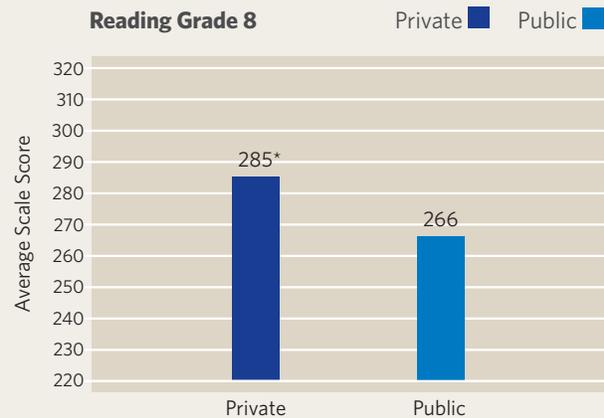
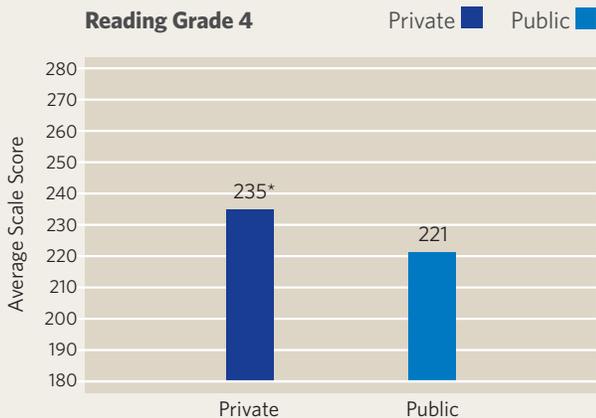
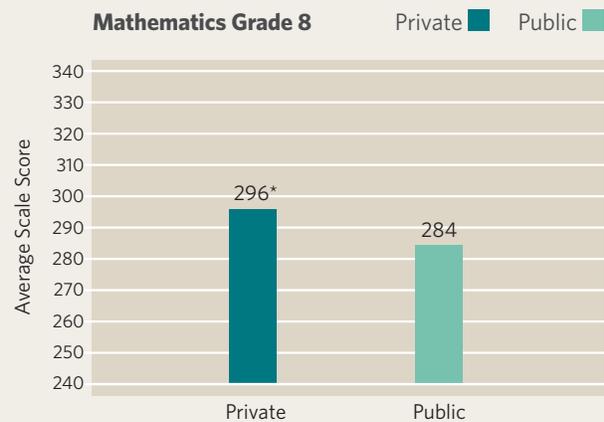
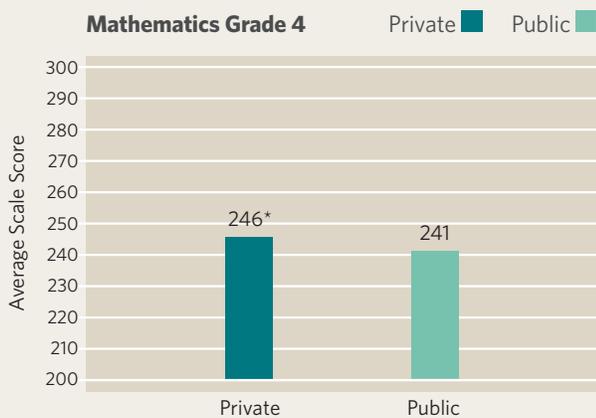
Students who participated in NAEP 2013 were assessed in mathematics or reading. The graphs below display mathematics and reading results for private and public school students in grades 4 and 8.

In 2013, students from private schools on average scored higher than students from public schools in mathematics and reading achievement at both grades 4 and 8.

Results for private schools can only be reported when a minimum of 70 percent of schools selected for NAEP participate in the assessment.

NAEP 2015 results are scheduled to be reported for two groups of private schools: Catholic and other private schools.

## NAEP 2013 Mathematics and Reading Scale Scores



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from public schools. NAEP scale scores in mathematics and reading range from 0 to 500.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2013 Mathematics and Reading Assessments.

# Participation

It is vitally important that private school students are represented in reports of our nation's educational progress. Once you have agreed to participate, a local NAEP representative will work directly with your designated school coordinator to make assessment arrangements.

## What is involved?

Although mathematics, reading, and science are being assessed in 2015, individual students will be assessed in only one subject. Students in schools selected to take the paper-and-pencil assessments will spend approximately 90 minutes, including transition time and directions, completing the assessments as well as the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Students in schools selected to take the pilot technology-based assessment on tablets will spend approximately 120 minutes on these tasks.

Each principal will be asked to

- designate a school coordinator; and
- include the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar.

The NAEP representative will then work with the school coordinator to complete various tasks highlighted below.

### ■ Register on the MyNAEP website.

Schools selected for NAEP can access detailed information about the assessment on this site. Schools may choose to register for the MyNAEP website by following these simple steps:

- Go to [www.mynaep.com](http://www.mynaep.com);
- On the right side of the screen, select "Please register"; and
- Enter your MyNAEP registration ID.

More information, including the school-specific MyNAEP registration ID, is sent to schools at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

### ■ Provide a list of eligible students.

NAEP uses a complete list of students in the selected grade to draw a random sample of students to participate in the assessment. The list of students can be provided (1) in a hardcopy format that is retained at the school to be sampled on site by a visiting NAEP representative, or (2) electronically through the secure MyNAEP website. Your NAEP representative will provide further information on these options and allow you to select the best method for your school.

■ **Inform parents.** By law, before the administration of the assessment, parents of students selected for NAEP must be informed that their child may be (or has been) selected, may be excused from participation for any reason, and is not required to finish the assessment or answer all test questions. The NAEP representative will ensure that schools have access to the sample NAEP parent guardian notification letter and instructions on how to fulfill this requirement.

■ **Complete other preassessment activities with guidance and support from the NAEP representative.**

In December the NAEP representative responsible for administering NAEP in your school will contact you and discuss how best to complete various tasks to prepare for the assessment. In addition to informing parents, these tasks include updating student information and preparing for the assessment of students with disabilities and English language learners, submitting a current roster of students, managing the completion of questionnaires by school staff, and finalizing assessment arrangements. These tasks can be completed via the MyNAEP website, and your NAEP representative will work with you to ensure completion of these tasks.

■ **Ensure that students attend the session on assessment day.** The school coordinator should be available prior to the assessment start time to ensure that students report to the session for which they are selected. The school coordinator and/or teachers of selected students are encouraged to remain in the room during the assessment, although they are not required to do so.



### **What are the responsibilities of the NAEP representatives?**

NAEP representatives work directly with schools. Most of the NAEP representatives are retired teachers or administrators from the local area. All NAEP representatives have completed a thorough qualifications review, including submitting fingerprints for an FBI clearance and signing an oath of confidentiality. A NAEP representative will be assigned to work out logistics with the school, provide the school coordinator with instructions and guidance for completing preassessment activities and ensuring a successful assessment, and lead the team of NAEP representatives on the day of assessment.

# Private School Results Online

NAEP assesses a representative sample of private school students at grades 4, 8, and 12. Several different breakdowns of results are available depending on the years, jurisdiction, and level of participation.

With high levels of private school student participation, NAEP can help provide answers to important questions such as the following:

- How has private school student performance in NAEP subjects changed over time?
- How does the performance of students in private schools compare to the performance of public school students?
- How do coursetaking patterns relate to student performance?

Results for private schools can be accessed by following the steps as illustrated on pages 8 and 9.

## Findings: Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading

From 1992 to 2013 in every year in which reporting standards were met, students in private schools consistently had higher average scores than students in public schools.

## Additional data tools

Along with an overview of NAEP data for private schools, more specific results are available through the NAEP Data Explorer at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata>. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/landing.aspx> to see how student performance compares nationally on specific items.

"In the interest of compiling a complete picture of private education in America, SBACS encourages Baptist schools to join other non-public schools by participating in NAEP projects."

— Edward E. Gamble, Executive Director  
Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools (SBACS)

## A new approach to reporting

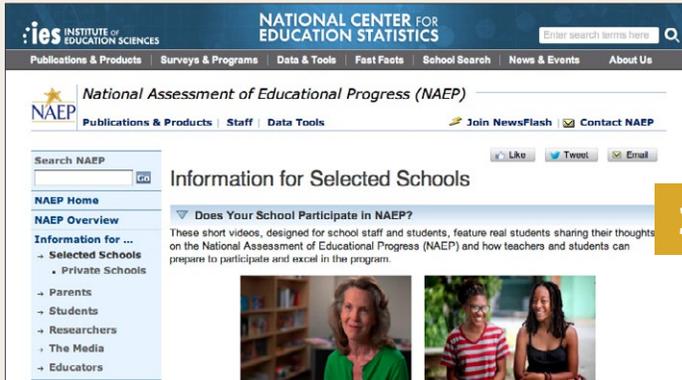
NAEP results are now easier than ever to access in a new interactive website at [http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading\\_math\\_2013](http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_2013). The results from the 2013 assessments in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8 for public and private school students can be explored in more detail with interactive graphics, downloadable data, and enhanced features for viewing results.

# Private School Results Online

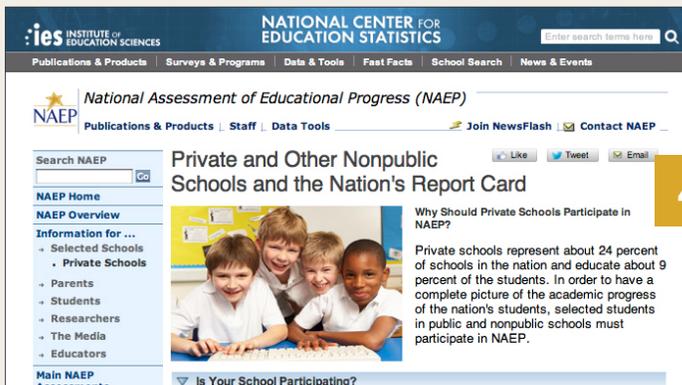


1 Go to <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

2 Click on the link **"Information for..."**



3 Click on the link **"Selected Schools"**



4 Click on the link **"Private Schools"**

▼ **NAEP Results for Private Schools**

Results for nonpublic schools can be examined through the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE). For each NAEP assessment, private school data are collected and included in the overall results. Private school results are also reported as a separate category in the years in which participation meets the NCES standard of at least 70% of schools in the sample. For most years, this is achieved; however, for some subjects, years, and grades, the symbol † will show that the reporting standards were not met. Explore the [Private School Quick Data tool](#) to see a detailed look at results for private and public schools.

**Arts**

- Average scale scores, public and private schools at grade 8 for [music](#) and [visual arts](#), 2008.

**Civics**

- Average scale scores, public and nonpublic schools at [grade 4](#), [grade 8](#), and [grade 12](#): 1998 and 2006; for 2010, at [grade 8](#) only.
- Achievement-level results, public and nonpublic schools at [grade 4](#), [grade 8](#), and [grade 12](#): 1998 and 2006; for 2010, at [grade 8](#) only.

**5** Click to expand the menu titled **“NAEP Results for Private Schools”**

**6** Click on the link **“Private School Quick Data tool”**

**Private School NAEP Results Online**

NAEP assesses representative samples of private school students at grades 4, 8, and 12 (or at ages 9, 13, and 17 for the long-term trend assessment) with each assessment. Private school results are reported whenever at least 70% of the schools in the sample participate. The symbol † shows up in the tables or charts whenever the data could not be reported.

For a quick but detailed look at results for private and public schools, use the Private School Quick Data tool below. Select the subject and grade, then select whether you want to see the data broken out by two categories (public and private schools) or by five categories (including Catholic, other private schools, and schools of the Bureau of Indian Education and the Department of Defense). Then press "Show table." This will take you to a results table in the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE), in a new tab or window.

**Private School Quick Data**

Select subject: [ ] Select variable: [ ]  
 Select grade: [ ] Select statistic: [ ]  
 [show table]

Once you see the results in the NDE, you can explore them further by customizing your tables or viewing them in a variety of chart formats, such as these:

The donut chart shows the following distribution: 45% are below Basic, 48% are at Basic, 23% are at Proficient, and 1% are at Advanced.

**7** Select the data available by **grade, subject, and year**

**NAEP Data Explorer**

1. Select Criteria → 2. Select Variables → 3. Edit Reports → 4. Build Reports

**STEP 4:** View each report table by selecting the report name from the drop-down menu. Create report types to edit and preview, each tab created represents one report type to export.

**Subject, Grade:** Mathematics, Grade 4  
**Jurisdiction:** National  
**Measure:** Composite scale  
**Variable:** Public or private school, 2 categories  
**Years:** 2013, 2011, 2009, 2007, 2005, 2003, 2000, 2000†, 1996, 1996†, 1992†, 1990†

Select Report: Report 1 [Export Reports]

Table | Chart 1 | Significance Test | Gap Analysis | Regression Analysis

Modify charts by selecting options from drop-down menus. To save chart for export click "Done".

2013 | National

Average scale scores for mathematics, grade 4 by public or private school, 2 categories for year and jurisdiction: 1990, 1992, 1996, 1996, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013

| Category | Scale Score |
|----------|-------------|
| Public   | 241         |
| Private  | 246         |

NOTE: The NAEP Mathematics scale ranges from 0 to 500. Some apparent differences between estimates may not be statistically significant.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1990, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013 Mathematics Assessments.

**8** **View Results**

## If you want to...

## Please visit...

**Find** out more information about NAEP in general

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

**Learn** more about the role of private schools in NAEP

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>

**Read** about the content development of the assessment

<http://www.nagb.org>

**Locate** assessment results

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata>

**View** sample questions

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>

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