

An Overview of NAEP for Private Schools



What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students in public and private schools in the United States know and can do in various subjects. Since 1969, NAEP has provided a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card. Results are generally reported for private schools overall and for two groups of private schools, Catholic and Other Private schools, provided minimum participation benchmarks are met. NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), located within the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences.

Why assess private schools?

Private schools have participated in NAEP for decades and are an integral part of providing a complete picture of education in the United States. Private school data make an important contribution to our understanding of the condition of education in the United States and to future policy decisions. Without the participation of private schools, there would be no Nation's Report Card. NAEP has consistently demonstrated that the performance of private school students compares favorably to that of public school students.

What subjects does NAEP assess?

NAEP assessments are conducted in a range of subjects at grades 4, 8, and 12 across the country. Assessments are given most frequently in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. Other subjects, including civics, economics, geography, music and visual arts, technology and engineering literacy, and U.S. history, are assessed periodically.

NAEP special studies are conducted periodically in addition to main assessments. They are administered as part of NAEP and often involve special data collection procedures in the field, in-depth analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures. For more information about NAEP special studies, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies>.

The National Assessment Governing Board, which sets NAEP policy, determines the assessment schedule and what content should be measured. To download a detailed PDF version of the assessment schedule, please visit <https://www.nagb.org/about-naep/assessment-schedule.html>.

What are NAEP digitally based assessments?

An increasing number of schools are making digital tools an integral component of the learning environment, reflecting that the knowledge and skills needed for future postsecondary success involve the use of new technologies. NAEP is evolving to address this changing educational landscape through its transition to digitally based assessments; pencil-and-paper assessments are being replaced by devices such as touchscreen tablets.

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. New technologies and universal design features are improving NAEP's ability to offer accommodations to increase student participation. In a digital environment, features like adjusting font size and using a highlighter tool are available to all students during the test administration. To learn more about digitally based assessments, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba>.

- The NCES NAEP website provides more extensive information about the assessment: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>
- For specific information about private school participation in NAEP, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>
- The NAEP website features a number of tools and applications designed to provide quick and easy access to NAEP assessment data, previously

- administered NAEP questions, performance comparisons, and more: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/naeptools.asp>
- To quickly access private school results, visit the private school quick data tool at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/private_school_quick_data.aspx
- NAEP results are also available on The Nation's Report Card website: <http://nationsreportcard.gov>

The following are examples of the types of NAEP questions and features students may encounter when participating in digitally based assessments.*

What is the length of the pen?

A 72 millimeters

B 78 millimeters

C 82 millimeters

D 88 millimeters

E 92 millimeters

4th Grade Mathematics

Students use the online ruler to measure objects and then answer multiple-choice questions in a grade 4 mathematics digitally based assessment administered on a tablet.

THE RECYCLING PROCESS

Raw Material

Manufacturer

Product

Consumer

Used Product

Used Product

Landfill

Recycling Center

Recycled Product

KEY
Rectangles = Processor
Triangles = Inputs and/or Outputs

According to the diagram shown, which of the following is a major effect of the recycling process?

Select 1 of the 4 choices below.

A Recycling causes people to consume more raw materials.

B Recycling directly stimulates consumer demand for recycled products.

C Recycling provides an incentive to discover new sources of raw materials.

D Recycling allows products to be made from fewer raw materials.

8th Grade Technology and Engineering Literacy

In 2014, NAEP administered the first-ever technology and engineering literacy assessment on laptops. This question assessed grade 8 students' understanding of the recycling process and its impact on society.

Use the slider to view the nuclear reaction that occurs when a high-energy particle collides with a large nucleus.

What type of nuclear reaction occurs, and why?

A Fusion, because more high-energy particles are produced.

B Fusion, because a high-energy particle combines with a large nucleus.

C Fission, because two smaller nuclei are produced.

D Fission, because mass is neither created nor destroyed during the process.

12th Grade Science

Students can use an online slider to observe changes in a nuclear reaction and then answer this multiple-choice question in a grade 12 science digitally based assessment administered on a tablet.

*The 4th grade and 12th grade questions are not released assessment questions, but represent what students might be asked during a NAEP digitally based assessment. The 8th grade sample question was released from the 2014 NAEP technology and engineering literacy assessment.

Frequently Asked Questions

What can private schools and students expect when participating in NAEP?

- NAEP is administered to students during regular school hours. Each student is assessed in one subject area. Students spend about 120 minutes taking the assessment, including time to complete a survey questionnaire.
- NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials, including tablets or other devices for digitally based assessments, to the schools on assessment day.
- Allowable accommodations are provided as necessary for students with disabilities and/or English language learners.
- Student responses on NAEP are confidential, and the privacy of each participating school and student is essential.*

Why is private school student participation important?

The participation of all selected students enables NAEP to provide the most accurate and representative picture of student performance. NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling procedure for the assessment to be representative of public and private schools and students throughout the United States. Each participating student represents hundreds of other students. These students represent the geographic, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity that is our nation's student body. Districts, states, policymakers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess student progress and develop ways to improve education across the country.

What are NAEP survey questionnaires?

NAEP survey questionnaires are voluntarily completed by students, teachers, and principals who participate in a NAEP assessment. Students may answer as many questions as they like and may skip any question by leaving a response blank. NAEP survey questionnaires provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and

out of the classroom. Student survey questionnaires take no more than 15 minutes to complete and are administered at the end of the NAEP assessment. To learn more about these questionnaires, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/bgquest.aspx>.



*The information each student provides will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, student responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about students. Electronic submission of student information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

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