



GRADE 8

TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING LITERACY ASSESSMENT

2014

Private Schools

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 students know and can do in various subjects.
- NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education.
- NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally.
- The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card and are used by teachers, principals, parents, policymakers and researchers to assess students' progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States.

To what extent can students analyze the pros and cons of a proposal to develop a new source of energy? Can students use the Internet to find and summarize information to solve a problem? Do students understand how and why new technologies are developed to suit human needs and wants?

The questions above are just a few examples of the types of questions the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment will aim to answer. In 2014, the first-ever national TEL assessment will be conducted at grade 8. The results from this assessment will be released as The Nation's Report Card.

Technology and engineering have become critical components of 21st-century life. For generations students have been taught about technology and instructed on how to use various technological devices. However, until the development of the TEL assessment there have been no standardized, nationally representative assessments to measure what students know about technology and engineering, the role technology and engineering plays in our lives, and the extent to which students can use technologies and understand how engineers design and develop them.

What is TEL?

The 2014 NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy Framework broadly defines technology and engineering literacy as the capacity to use, understand, and evaluate technology as well as to understand technological principles and strategies needed to develop solutions and achieve goals.

This framework guides the development of the TEL assessment and defines what students should know and be able to do with technology. The assessment is designed to assess three interconnected areas:

- Technology and Society
- Design and Systems
- Information and Communication Technology

The framework focuses on the level of knowledge and competencies about technology and engineering needed by all students and citizens to function in a technological society. The focus is not on students' ability to engineer or produce technology in the professional sense or on technical knowledge or engineering expertise taught in specialized courses for postsecondary engineering studies.

For more information about NAEP visit:

- **Program overview**
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>
- **Private school participation**
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.asp>
- **TEL assessment**
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel>
- **TEL overview video**
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/telanimation>

Why is TEL important for today's students?

Technology and engineering literacy skills increasingly are being taught through a wide range of school coursework. This includes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, as well as subjects such as social studies and language arts. These courses include instruction on using computers and information technology to complete school assignments, lessons that examine the role of technology in society, and information on engineering design. Information technologies are also essential tools in the workplace and in everyday living.

Because of this growing importance of technology and engineering in the educational landscape, the TEL assessment is an important addition to NAEP.

The TEL assessment will measure what students know about technology and engineering in the same way that NAEP already assesses their knowledge and capabilities in reading, mathematics, science, and other subjects.

How is TEL assessed?

Allowing students to demonstrate the wide range of knowledge and skills detailed in the three TEL assessment areas will require a departure from the typical assessment designs used in other NAEP subjects. In addition to responding to short-answer and multiple-choice questions, students will be asked to perform a variety of computer-based tasks to solve problems within scenarios that reflect realistic situations. These scenario-based tasks are an innovative component of NAEP.

Because students' experiences with technology are not always attained in or confined to the classroom, the TEL assessment will be accompanied by a questionnaire focusing on students' opportunities to learn about technology and engineering both inside and outside the classroom.

What should schools expect?

The TEL assessment in 2014 will be administered by NAEP representatives who will work with school staff to organize assessment activities. NAEP representatives will bring necessary materials, including laptop computers and earbuds, to the school on assessment day. About 30 students in each school will be selected to participate, and the assessment will be administered in two sequential sessions of approximately 15 students each.

What should students expect?

Before the assessment begins, students will watch a tutorial that will familiarize them with the interface and how to use the program. Students will spend about 120 minutes completing the assessment, which includes transition time and directions.

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