PILOT TECHNOLOGY-BASED ASSESSMENTS

2015

NAEP in Your Private School

NAEP
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

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 core 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 represent 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 make an important contribution to the picture of education in the United States and to future policy decisions. Private schools represent about 24 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 and to the rest of the nation.

Why participate in NAEP?

To obtain a complete picture of the academic progress of the nation's students, 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).

"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

The NAEP 2015 program in your school

From January 26 to March 6, 2015, students will participate in pilot technology-based assessments. Students will use tablets provided by NAEP to complete a mathematics, reading, or science assessment. Each student will be assessed in only one subject. Students will spend approximately 120 minutes completing the assessments, which includes transition time and directions and completion of a student questionnaire. The questionnaire provides contextual information such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take.

The school principal and the 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 important information for education stakeholders who need to gain a better picture of student performance.

Although the results of the pilot will not be released, as NAEP transitions to technology-based assessments, this pilot will provide valuable information on how to maximize the use of touch-enabled devices, such as tablets, for future assessments.

For more information about NAEP visit:

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

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, 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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