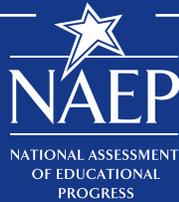


Measure Up

FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

NAEP NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



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NO NAEP 2015 RESULTS FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The NAEP 2015 paper-and-pencil assessments for grades 4 and 8 in mathematics and reading were administered January 26-March 6, 2015, to more than 550,000 students nationwide. Results were released in late October and may be viewed on the Nation's Report Card website at www.nationsreportcard.gov. Participation of private schools was an important component of overall national results and made it possible to report those results. However, not enough non-Catholic private schools agreed to participate in the assessment in 2015, and benchmarks for reporting results for overall private schools were not met. NAEP requires a minimum private school participation rate of 70 percent in order to report results, and in 2015 overall private school participation rates were 61 percent

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF NAEP FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS?

WINTER 2015-2016

- Paper-and-pencil assessments will be administered to private school students in grade 8 in music and visual arts.
- Pilot assessments on tablets will be administered to private school students in mathematics and reading at grade 4 and in mathematics, reading, and writing at grade 8.

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

- The NAEP 2016 assessments will be scored in scoring centers across the country.
- Results from the NAEP 2014 technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment will be released.
- Public and private schools selected to participate in the NAEP 2017 assessments will be notified and will begin preparing for the assessment



For more information about NAEP, visit:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>

Find us on:



Did your private school participate in NAEP? Would you like to tell us about your experience? Send us an email at MeasureUpforPrivateSchools@westat.com.

for grade 4 and 56 percent for grade 8. This is the first time since 2005 that private school participation rates have not met reporting benchmarks at grades 4 and 8 in mathematics and reading. Reasons schools identified for choosing not to participate in NAEP were varied and included limited time or resources, concerns about too much testing, reluctance to sacrifice instructional time, or just a firm refusal with no reason provided. However, results for Catholic schools, whose students comprise about 40 percent of students in private schools, were reportable and are shared below.

The participation of a single private school in NAEP can be the deciding factor in whether data are or are not reported for our nation's students who receive their instruction in private schools. Each selected school represents hundreds

of other private schools throughout the country, and participation is important to ensure that the performance of private school students can be accurately reported. Each private school makes a special contribution to the overall state of education in our nation. Including private schools in the NAEP sample enables us to compare private school student performance to that of public school students and get a more complete picture of how various student populations are progressing.

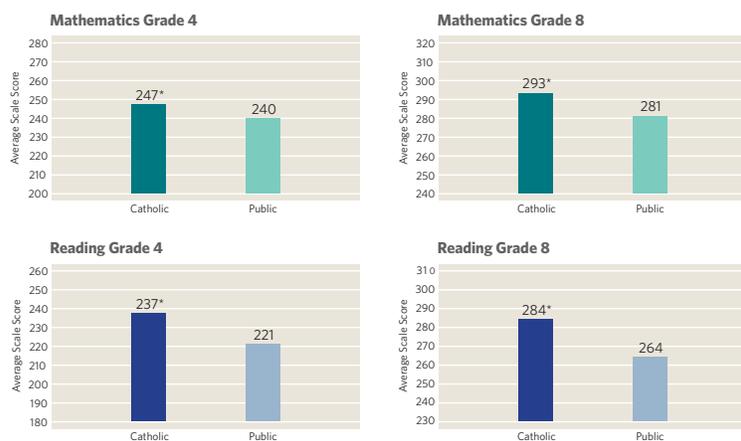
NAEP will continue to explore new and innovative methods and strategies for encouraging private school participation for NAEP 2016 and future assessments. To learn more about private school participation in NAEP, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>.

NAEP 2015 RESULTS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Students from Catholic schools on average had higher scale scores than students from public schools in mathematics and reading at both grades 4 and 8.

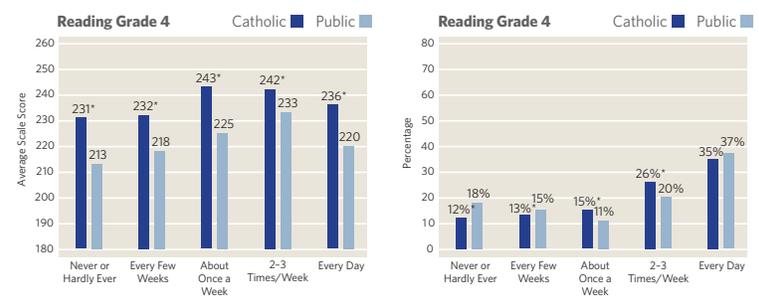
Mathematics and Reading 2015

Catholic School and National Public Student Performance



NAEP also collects information that provides context for reporting student performance. Students were asked to respond to the question, "How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?" Students in Catholic schools scored higher on average than

students in public schools in every response category to this question. The percentage of Catholic school students who responded that they talk about their studies with family every day (35%) was not significantly different from the percentage of public school students who responded the same way (37%); however, the percentage of Catholic school students who responded that they talk about their studies with family never or hardly ever (12%) was lower than the percentage of public school students who responded the same way (18%).



* 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), 2015 Mathematics and Reading Assessments.

Learn more about private and Catholic school NAEP participation and results at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx> and expand the menu item, "NAEP Results for Private Schools."

The NAEP Experience

Private school teachers and staff discuss their experiences with NAEP.



In this edition, we interview a private school organization leader who supports NAEP with outreach to private schools selected to participate in NAEP. Read about Sister Dale McDonald, PBVM, PhD, the director of public policy and educational research at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

How long have you been an educator? Tell us a little about your organization?

I have been in Catholic education 54 years as a teacher and administrator at all levels: K-8, 9-12 and university.

Founded in 1905, NCEA is the largest private professional education organization in the world. It represents more than 150,000 Catholic educators serving almost 2 million students in 6,500 Catholic elementary and secondary schools. The mission of NCEA is to provide leadership, direction, and service to its members in fulfilling the teaching mission of the Church. The distinctive characteristic of NCEA is its ability to assist Catholic schools in their mission of providing an excellent academic program within a faith environment.

Why did you choose to get involved in education? What role(s) do you think private schools play in the education system of the United States?

I always loved school and learning and wanted to participate in a career that would enable me to continue that and share my love of learning with others. I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in a variety of settings with different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic situations and come to experience education as the gateway for opportunity for all children.

Almost a quarter of all schools in the United States and almost 10 percent of all students are in private or religious schools. These schools contribute to the common good through the education of students who will play a role in shaping the future. It is important that the contributions of these schools and the

performance of their students be part of the national picture of the state of education in the nation.

Your organization has been extremely supportive of NAEP for many years. Why does your organization endorse NAEP and encourage school participation?

NCEA encourages member schools to participate in NAEP so that their results will be reported specifically and that we have some independent measure of the overall effectiveness of our schools and a benchmark against which to measure success as well as areas that need improvement.

Why do you believe that Catholic school participation in NAEP has historically been so high, much higher than that of independent and non-Catholic religious schools?

Participation of Catholic schools in NAEP is quite high (80%-90%) because NCEA believes in NAEP's value and strongly encourages its schools to participate if they are selected. In addition, schools know that the performance of students in private schools on NAEP compares positively and frequently surpasses results for students in many of the nation's public schools and they know the public relations value of those results.

What value does NAEP have for your private schools' community?

In an era in which data-driven planning is used to design and improve instruction, NAEP and its published frameworks and sample assessments can be utilized by teachers for designing assessments as well as curriculum planning.

What advice would you tell a private school that is making a decision about participating in NAEP?

Familiarize yourself with the NAEP website! The available resources and data analysis tools there provide valuable information about the assessments as well as data about the content knowledge and skill sets that indicate achievement levels and assist in developing data-driven instruction in classrooms.

To learn more about private school participation in NAEP, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>.

NAEP Behind the Scenes

Learn more about the people who work behind the scenes to make NAEP the gold standard of assessments.

In this interview, we talk with Marcie Hickman, the NAEP inclusion manager in the NAEP Support and Service Center (NSSC) at Westat based in Rockville, Maryland. Her primary responsibilities include ensuring that students with disabilities and English language learners selected for NAEP are assessed appropriately with or without NAEP allowable accommodations.

How long have you worked on the NAEP program? Describe your current role as it relates to NAEP.

I have worked on the NAEP program since 2003 and I am the NAEP data collection and inclusion manager for the NAEP Support and Service Center. I provide support to states and large urban districts in preparing schools for the NAEP assessments. One of my responsibilities includes ensuring that NAEP is as inclusive as possible of students with disabilities and English language learners. I also assist in the development of outreach and support materials for states, districts, and public and private schools to prepare them for the upcoming NAEP assessments and to help them understand the importance of participating in NAEP.

What position(s) did you hold prior to joining NAEP?

I started off my career in education as a middle school science teacher. After that, I worked as the science curriculum specialist for a state education agency and was the NAEP State Coordinator for another state education agency.

What in your past training and experience best prepared for you for current job?

As a former science teacher, I regularly team taught with special education teachers. This experience has helped me understand the importance of providing students with special needs access to all educational opportunities.

What is the most satisfying part of your job? What is the most challenging?

The most satisfying part of my job is being an adult educator. Even though I am not in the classroom every day, I still get the opportunity to teach others. NAEP is an innovative assessment program and is currently transitioning to digitally based assessments. The most challenging part of my job is ensuring assessment access for special populations as NAEP moves to digitally based assessments.

What is the value of NAEP for private schools? Why should they participate?

NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects. Private schools make up an important part of our nation's schools, so private school participation is important to ensure that NAEP results represent all of our nation's schools. NAEP is the only nationally representative assessment of overall private school student performance and allows us to compare performance of private school students with that of public school students. NAEP data have demonstrated across subjects and over time that private school student performance compares very favorably to that of public school students. Without the participation of private schools, this information and these kinds of comparisons would not be possible.

Why, in your opinion, is it important for private schools selected to participate in NAEP include students with disabilities and English language learners in the assessment(s) at their schools?

The responses of students with disabilities and English language learners on NAEP represent those of hundreds of other similar students. Without this participation, information about how to best meet the educational needs of these students would be lost.

For more information on private school participation in NAEP visit:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>