

NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States.

- The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), administers NAEP. Elected officials, researchers, and policymakers use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- First administered in 1969, NAEP collects and reports information on student trends and performance and compares achievement of students in public schools with that of students in private schools.
- 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 in public and private schools from around the nation.

“I think the online tools that NAEP makes available are really beneficial in the classroom. The Questions Tool gives us the ability to pull out a retired question and use it with our current curriculum and see how our students compare with students on a national level.”

— Eleni Ganelli, St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, Edgewater, MD

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what students in public and private schools know and can do in various subjects. Private schools are a critical component of the NAEP program. Private schools represent about 24 percent of the schools in the nation and educate approximately 9 percent of the nation’s students. Private school data are essential to providing a complete and accurate picture of education in the United States and to future policy decisions. The results of NAEP are released to the public as The Nation’s Report Card.

As a private school teacher, you are an essential partner in NAEP. You make an important contribution by encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

Teachers promote understanding of what influences student learning. Teachers of students in grades 4 and 8 will be asked to complete a contextual questionnaire to provide a better understanding of students’ educational experiences and factors that may be related to learning. After teachers complete the questionnaire online, they can elect to receive a summary of how other teachers responded to the questionnaire. Your NAEP school coordinator is your school’s liaison for all NAEP assessment activities and can provide additional guidance and information.

Teachers can use NAEP questions as a resource in the classroom. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt> to create online self-scoring tests for students and see how the performance of students in private schools compares nationally with that of public school students on specific items. Released items generally come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. Students can try NAEP questions at the NAEP Learning Tree by visiting www.nationsreportcard.gov/students.aspx.

Teachers can watch a NAEP video online that provides an overview of the assessment as well as tips on how to support students selected to participate.

Watch it at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/teachervideo>.

Teachers can also view private school teachers and heads of school describing their experiences with the NAEP assessment and discussing the value of NAEP to private schools in an online video, *Private Schools and NAEP: A National Conversation*. Watch the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLs7_L7pGgs

It's important to know that...

Assessments will be administered in the following subject areas in 2015:

- Mathematics—Grades 4, 8, and 12
- Reading—Grades 4, 8, and 12
- Science—Grades 4, 8, and 12
- Students in some schools will take the traditional paper-and-pencil assessments in these subjects.
- Students in other schools will take pilot technology-based assessments in these subjects. These pilots will be administered on tablets provided by NAEP.

Frameworks guide the development of NAEP assessments. Specific frameworks (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies>) define the knowledge and skills to be measured. The National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees and sets policy for NAEP, develops the frameworks. Governors, state legislators, local and state public and private school officials, public and private school principals, teachers and education specialists, business representatives, parents, and members of the public make up the 26-member Governing Board.

NAEP causes minimal disruption for teachers and students. No advance preparation for teachers or for students is necessary. Trained NAEP representatives, employed by contractors of NCES, administer NAEP.

Students are asked a variety of questions.

NAEP assessments include multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. Students also respond to questionnaires regarding a variety of areas such as usage of computers and other technology, reading habits, and the content of their courses. Responses help provide context for the NAEP results.

Each student takes only a portion of the full assessment. Each student will take the NAEP assessment in one subject only. It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities, including transition time and directions.

Participation is very important. Selected students represent the geographic, racial/ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity of the nation's public and private schools. While student participation in NAEP is not mandatory and participating students may omit any question, full participation is essential to ensure an accurate picture of student achievement nationwide.

Including all students is essential. To ensure that student achievement is accurately reported, students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) are encouraged to participate in the NAEP assessments. Many accommodations are allowed during the assessment, such as extended time, breaks during the test, and separate setting. Teachers of SD and ELL students selected for the assessment are asked to provide information to determine how these students will be assessed on NAEP.

NAEP is confidential. No one involved in administering NAEP keeps personal information on teachers or students after the assessments are completed. There are no results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

How NAEP reports results...

Since 1969, NAEP has produced many reports chronicling trends over time in the performance of 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds and fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-grade students. Information is reported by race/ethnicity, gender, type of school, and by both achievement level and scale scores. Results for private schools are generally reported as overall private schools results and for two groups of private schools, Catholic and other private schools.

NAEP also disseminates information from data collected on student, teacher, and school contextual questionnaires. This information can be used to inform parents, the public, and education policymakers about our nation's educational environment. You can access data from previous assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata> and explore the most recent results at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

Recent NAEP findings...

2013 MATHEMATICS

59% of fourth-graders in private schools had teachers who reported spending 5 hours or more on math instruction per week.

35% of eighth-graders in private schools had mathematics teachers who reported having a master's degree.



2011 SCIENCE

57% of eighth-graders in private schools had teachers who asked them to work with other students on a science activity or project at least once a week.

60% of eighth-graders in private schools had teachers who asked students to use a computer or other technological resources to make a chart or graph that shows results of science projects at least once a month.



2013 READING

44% of fourth-graders in private schools reported reading 16 or more pages a day in school and for homework.

43% of eighth-graders in private schools had teachers who reported that they majored in English as undergraduates.



“We encouraged our students to do their very best on the NAEP assessment. Our students knew that their responses would be included in data for all private schools. I believe our students strove to do their best, and that reflected pride in their school and in this educational opportunity.”

— Corinne Hoffert, Faith Lutheran School, Eustis, Florida



For more information

Download NAEP reports, access sample questions, and learn about upcoming assessments

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

Call the NAEP help desk

800-283-6237

View the NAEP teacher video, Introducing NAEP to Teachers

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

View the NAEP private school video, Private Schools and NAEP: A National Conversation

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLs7_L7pGgs

Contact your NAEP school coordinator