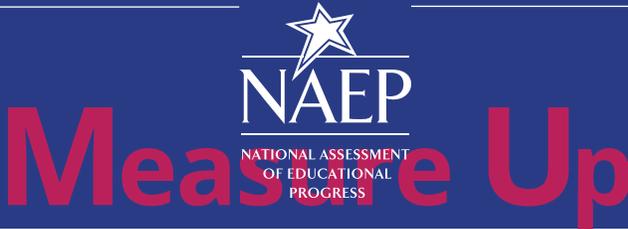


# Measure Up

for Private Schools

NAEP News for the Private School Community



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## The NAEP 2018 Assessments Are Here

Last spring, private schools selected to participate in NAEP 2018 were contacted by NAEP representatives to begin planning for assessment day. In the fall and early winter, private schools continued to work with NAEP representatives to plan and prepare for the assessment. Preparations included tasks such as notifying parents/guardians of their child's selection to participate in the assessment, informing NAEP representatives of any students with disabilities or English language learners requiring an accommodation, and reviewing school logistics for assessment day.

On assessment day (January 29–March 9, 2018), NAEP representatives will bring all required materials to the testing location. Examples of materials include tablets, assessment booklets, and earbuds. NAEP representatives will set up the testing location(s) and will meet briefly with the NAEP school coordinator. Students will be instructed to report to their assigned testing location. After reviewing instructions with the NAEP representatives, students begin the assessment. Upon completion of the assessment, NAEP representatives pack up all materials and return the testing location to the same condition in which it was found.

## What's Happening in the World of NAEP for Private Schools?

### Winter 2018

- Private school students selected for NAEP 2018 will take the assessment between January 29 and March 9, 2018. NAEP assessments will be administered in civics, geography, technology and engineering literacy, and U.S. history.

### Spring/Summer 2018

- The results of the NAEP 2017 mathematics and reading assessments will be released.
- The NAEP 2018 assessments will be scored in scoring centers across the country.
- Public and private schools selected to participate in NAEP 2019 will be notified and will begin preparing for the assessment.



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

Find us on:



## Transitioning to NAEP Digitally Based Assessments

Today's students are digital natives. Their schools are usually equipped with computers, and digital tools are an integral part of the learning environment. To address the increased role of technology in classrooms, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is transitioning NAEP from paper and pencil to digitally based assessments. NCES is utilizing established best practices for NAEP to remain at the forefront of innovation for large-scale assessments.

NAEP digital assessments, which are administered on tablets or laptop computers, use dynamic and innovative technologies to provide an engaging assessment experience for students and more meaningful data about students' skills and knowledge for educators.

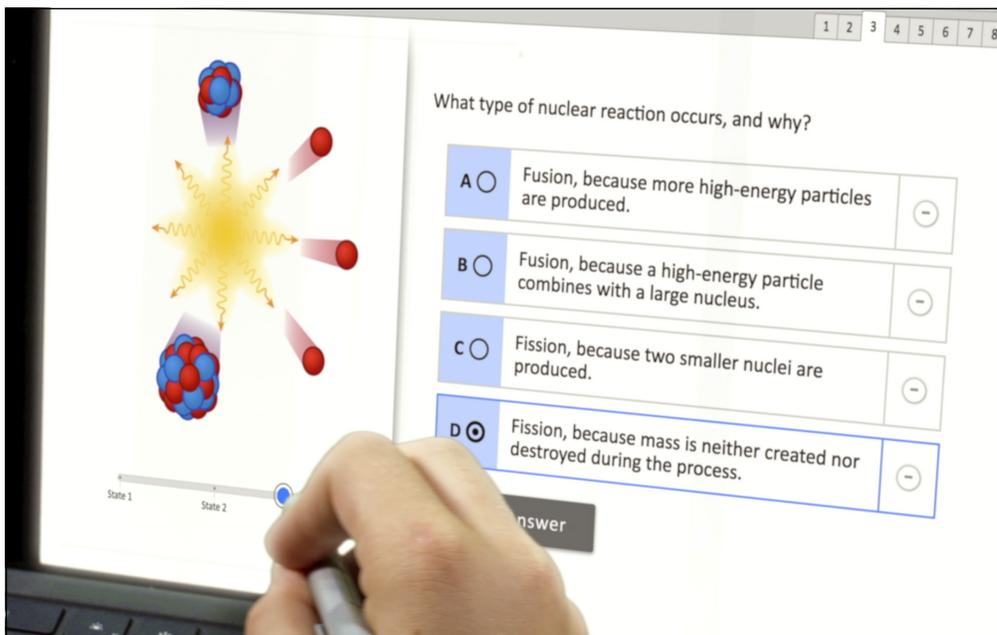


With digitally based assessments, students are asked to receive, gather, and report information just as they

do in their everyday lives. These new assessments include universal design principles, making it possible for more students to participate without special accommodation sessions. The goal is for all students to have a seamless assessment administration, regardless of their ability.

Learn more about NAEP's transition to digitally based assessments at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba>.

View the new video, *Going Digital: NAEP Assessments for the Future* on the NAEP YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RJ4k0l6h2c>.



# The Private School Perspective

In this section, guest writers from the private school community are invited to share their private school perspective on a variety of topics related to NAEP and private school participation.



In this article, we hear from Joe McTighe, the executive director of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE). Mr. McTighe has served in his current role since 1996. Prior to his work at CAPE, Joe worked for 15 years as an associate director at the New York State Catholic Conference. He also served as principal of a Catholic elementary school and was a Catholic school teacher.

## NAEP and Private Schools: A Two-Way Street

Written by Joe McTighe, executive director of CAPE

Pop quiz: In 2014, what percentage of private school eighth-graders scored at or above the *Basic* level on the NAEP civics assessment? Choose from the following options: (a) 74 percent, (b) 89 percent, (c) 38 percent, or (d) cannot be determined.

Before responding, you should know that the civics assessment is designed to “measure the civics knowledge and skills that are critical to the responsibilities of citizenship in America.” And note that the question asks for the share of students at or above the *Basic* level. *Basic* performance denotes “partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work” at the grade level in question. Levels above *Basic* represent either *Proficient* or *Advanced* academic performance.

With all that in mind, if you answered 89 percent, consider yourself advanced in your knowledge of NAEP results. Any other response was below basic.

To provide some perspective, while 89 percent of private school students scored at or above *Basic* in the 2014 civics assessment, the percentage of students scoring at or above *Basic* for the nation as a whole was 74 percent. The share of private school students scoring at or above the *Proficient* level was also higher than for the nation as a whole (38 percent versus 23 percent).

I start with civics because in public policy discussions about education these days, some people argue that all students are better off in public schools because that’s where they will best learn civic values and how to become good citizens. The NAEP civics assessment, the government’s own test of civics, seems to contradict that argument.

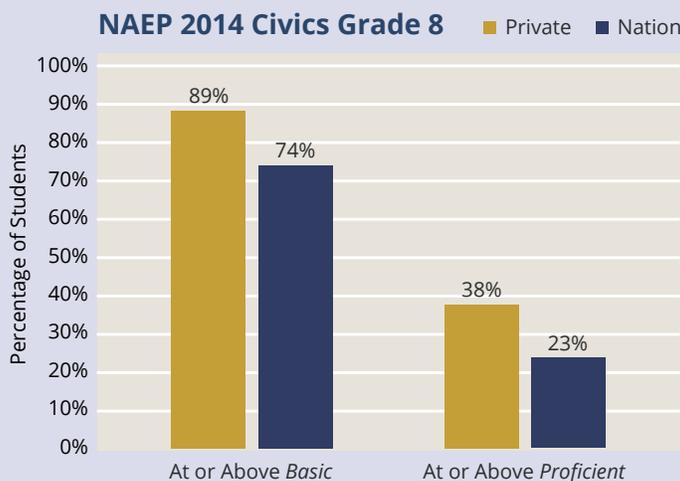
At CAPE we believe that private schools are good for students, good for families, and good for America. But we don’t blithely make that claim without evidence.

Often such evidence comes from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the federal entity that collects and reports data relating to education.

Anyone who reads CAPE’s free monthly publication *Outlook* (subscribe at [www.capenet.org/outsub.html](http://www.capenet.org/outsub.html)) knows that we regularly use NCES data to tell the private school story through a variety of indicators, ranging from levels of teacher

satisfaction as measured by the Schools and Staffing Survey to levels of student well-being as reported in Indicators of School Crime and Safety.

NCES also administers NAEP, the largest continuing and nationally representative measure of private and public



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## The Private School Perspective continued

### *continued from page 3*

school student achievement across the country. Private school students consistently score above the national average on NAEP.

One more pop quiz: In 2015, what percentage of private school eighth-graders scored at or above the *Basic* level on the NAEP reading assessment? Was it (a) 64 percent, (b) 92 percent, (c) 37 percent, or (d) cannot be determined.

Unfortunately, the answer here is (d) cannot be determined. We simply have no idea what the actual percentage is. Why? Because a sufficient number of private schools did not participate in the 2015 NAEP.

To make certain that samples are truly reflective of the population in question, NAEP requires that at least 70 percent of the schools sampled to take part in the program actually do so. Unfortunately, the private school response rate in 2015 was only 61 percent, nine points below the 70 percent threshold, which meant that private school performance could not be reported.

We lost a great opportunity that year to find out how student achievement in private schools compared to the nation as a whole. Sadly, it was a relatively small number of private schools that prevented that from happening.

The lesson here is this: Data from NCES help tell the private school story; they provide parents, policymakers, and the public with an overview of the outstanding contributions our schools make to the common good.

But securing that data is a two-way street. The only way we get it is when enough schools cooperate to produce reliable and reportable results.

That's why each year CAPE writes a letter to all the private schools selected for NAEP encouraging them to participate. Their decision carries enormous consequences for the entire private school community. Each school's choice helps determine whether private school data will be reported that year or not.

Private schools account for about 26 percent of all schools in the nation and educate approximately 9 percent of all school children. It is essential that our students' performance be included in all data that describe the condition of education in the United States.

Our schools serve the public good. But they also have particular and personal impact. They educate the whole person, in all dimensions—intellectual, emotional, physical, aesthetic,

moral, religious, and spiritual. They teach the lessons that count most in life: lessons about God, love, responsibility, and the mystery of creation. In an age when so many young people are adrift, our schools provide students an anchor and a moral compass. They offer students a firm foundation and a promising future.

Now more than ever, it is essential that the value of private education be proclaimed. NCES data, and NAEP in particular, can help with that proclamation. I strongly urge schools to say yes when NCES invites them to participate in its surveys or assessments.

*Now more than ever, it is essential that the value of private education be proclaimed. NCES data, and NAEP in particular, can help with that proclamation. I strongly urge schools to say yes when NCES invites them to participate in its surveys or assessments.*

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

To read other NAEP Experience interviews, visit [https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools\\_measureup.aspx](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools_measureup.aspx).

Did your private school participate in NAEP? Would you like to tell us about your experience?

Send us an email at [MeasureUpforPrivateSchools@westat.com](mailto:MeasureUpforPrivateSchools@westat.com).