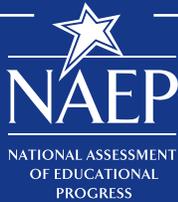


# Measure Up

## FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

NAEP NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



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## WINTER 2015



### NEW NAEP VIDEO – PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND NAEP: A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

Learn about the pivotal role that private schools play in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the value of NAEP to private schools, and what participating in the assessment is like. View the new private school video for insights about the NAEP experience from heads of schools, teachers, and a private school organization leader. Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx> to view the 4-minute video.



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

Find us on:



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

#### WINTER 2015

- Vocabulary results from the NAEP 2013 reading assessment will be released.
- Paper-and-pencil assessments will be administered to private school students in grades 4, 8, and 12 in mathematics, reading and science.
- A technology-based pilot will be administered to private school students in grades 4, 8, and 12 in mathematics, reading, and science.

#### SPRING/SUMMER 2015

- The NAEP 2015 assessments will be scored in scoring centers across the country:
  - Mathematics will be scored in Mesa, Arizona.
  - Reading will be scored in Columbus, Ohio, and Virginia Beach, Virginia.
  - Science will be scored in Lansing, Michigan.
- Private schools selected for NAEP 2016 will be notified and begin preparing for the assessment.
- Results from the NAEP 2014 assessments in U.S. history, geography, and civics will be released.

#### FALL 2015

- Results from the NAEP 2015 mathematics and reading paper-and-pencil assessments will be released for grades 4 and 8.

## THE ENHANCED NAEP QUESTIONS TOOL (NQT)

In the Fall 2014 edition of *Measure Up for Private Schools*, we shared an overview of the enhanced NQT and focused on new features specific to private school users. See the article at [http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools\\_measureup.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools_measureup.aspx).

In addition to the new features for private schools, the enhanced NQT now enables users to create online assessments.

To create an online assessment, visit the NQT home page at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.gov/nqt>. Select "Make a customized test." On the customized test screen:

- Choose a subject and grade(s).
- Choose a display mode for viewing your results: Grid or Drag 'n Drop.
- Click "Get Count" to see how many NAEP questions/items are generated by your search criteria.
- Select additional criteria from the options below on the page, including content classifications, question types, difficulty levels, and years administered.
- Click "OK."

### Next steps

- View your results and question details. Select questions you would like to include in your list of questions and test.
- Sort questions, use keyword search, or add additional questions to your list by refining your search options, including type of questions you would like to include and what each type indicates (e.g., extended response, short-constructed response, or multiple choice).
- View your final list before publishing as an online test.
- Make sure you are signed in to your account, and then save your list.
- Create a roster for when you publish your list as a test.
- Publish your list as an online test, and create test tickets to print and distribute to your students.
- See test results, compare to other NAEP performance data, and download reports.

For more information on the enhanced NQT visit <http://nces.ed.gov/NationsReportCard/nqt>.

**Publish Test**

Provide the following information for online administration of a test comprised of the selected item list. Publish test and download test material.

**Item List:** Morning Math Class                      **Questions:** 32                      **Estimated Completion Time:** 55 Minutes

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*\*Required fields*

**\*Test Name:**

**\*Roster:** You must either select an existing roster or indicate how many total test-takers you want to publish your test for.  
                      **\*Total Test Takers:**

**Due Date:**  
  Test will not expire if no due date is selected

**Comparison Results:**

**Test Format:**

Allow test taker to see results after test completion  
 Hide all test results from test taker

Allow test taker to retake test

**Email Options:**

Notify me when each test is complete  
 Notify me when all tests are complete  
 Do not notify me

# The NAEP Experience

Private school teachers and staff discuss their experiences with NAEP.



**In this new section, we interview private school teachers, principals, heads of school, or other school staff who had experience with NAEP in their private school as a NAEP school coordinator. Read about Muhammad Kabir, the assistant principal and dean of academics at the College**

**Preparatory School of America in Lombard, Illinois, which serves students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade.**

## *Tell us about your professional education experience.*

I came to serve in the education field through the New York City Teaching Fellows program. I served as an elementary teacher for 2 years during my training period. Then I became a school administrator of a private school. Currently, I am serving as an assistant principal and dean of academics at College Preparatory School of America.

## *Why did you choose to work at a private school? Why are private schools important to the nation's education system?*

I have always wanted to serve in a community school where a quality education is mandated as well as family values, cultural competency, and diverse community spirits are cherished. Private schools are an integral part of the education system in the United States. They play a significant role by providing local communities with a quality education and by meeting each community's specific needs (faith, language, etc.).

## *Why do you think it is important for private schools to participate in NAEP?*

NAEP is designed to assess how our nation's youth are making progress in their education. To ensure an equitable assessment, it is very important for private schools to participate in NAEP.

## *What did you tell your students when they were chosen to participate in NAEP? What did you tell the parents of those selected students?*

I motivated our students by telling them that they are helping in their own educational health checkup by participating in this process. I informed parents that their cooperation and collaboration will help improve their children's education.

## *As you know, students don't need to prepare for the NAEP assessment because scores aren't reported at the student level. How do you think this affected students' experience on NAEP?*

Our students take other standardized tests, so they are familiar with what it entails. We think our students had a positive experience. They demonstrated it through 100 percent attendance. Also, our students were happy to receive the voluntary/community service hour.

## *Tell us a little about the assessment day.*

NAEP representatives were on task. They walked us through the steps (e.g., selection of students, notifying parents) on the phone and through email. On the day of assessment they arrived an hour early to get everything organized and facilitate the assessment process.

Our students seemed to be quite engaged during the assessment. The loss of instructional time in the classroom was compensated indirectly by the students' test-taking experience.

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 Carole Bower, the NAEP private school coordinator in the NAEP Support and Service Center (NSSC) at Westat based in Rockville, Maryland. Her primary responsibilities include promoting understanding of NAEP among private school organizations and assisting**

**the NAEP representatives in the recruitment of private schools for participation in NAEP.**

***How long have you worked on the NAEP program?  
What position(s) did you hold prior to joining NAEP?***

I began working on the NAEP program in 2004 and have been directing outreach to private schools and organizations for nearly 2 years. Earlier in my career I taught elementary and middle school students in both public and private schools.

***Describe your current position and the role(s) of the NSSC.***

As NAEP private school coordinator in the NSSC, I work to promote understanding of NAEP among private school organization leaders, and indirectly to the private school community at large. My team and I provide training and support to private school organization leaders focusing on the value of NAEP to private schools, the various tools and resources NAEP provides, and upcoming activities in the NAEP program, from conducting assessments in schools to providing results. I also support our very dedicated and diligent field staff who work to gain cooperation of private schools sampled for NAEP, providing customized recruitment and outreach materials, such as the new private school video (see page 1). I have a whole team of specialists, from statisticians to inclusion specialists to communication experts, that I can call upon to provide support in promoting understanding of NAEP among the private school community.

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

I think that the years I spent teaching in both private and public schools provided me with insights into the numerous contextual factors that influence learning and the many challenges associated with measuring what students know and can do. I think I also gained some valuable perspectives on the challenges parents face in determining the best learning environment for their child. These insights and perspective have helped me better understand the human element in NAEP data and not lose sight of the fact that ultimately NAEP data is designed to inform the conversation about how to improve student learning.

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

My role as private school coordinator has given me an opportunity to get to know some really wonderful people in the private school community. The organization leaders I have the privilege of working with are dedicated, enthusiastic professionals, committed to advancing the cause of private school education and providing the best support possible to private school institutions and students. Although I don't get to deal directly with schools and students very often, directing the development of the private school video brought me into schools that were inspiring places of learning, and that was a real treat. I think one of the greatest challenges in my job is devising effective communication strategies to reach folks with very busy schedules and many other priorities competing for their limited time.

***Why is private school participation in NAEP important?***

Private schools are an integral part of the American family and comprise a critical component of education in the United States. For NAEP to be fully reflective of what our nation's students know and can do, private schools need to be represented. NAEP would not truly be The Nation's Report Card without the participation of private schools and students.

For more information on private school participation in NAEP visit:  
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