



2016

NAEP in Your Private School

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 various 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 make an important contribution by representing 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.

ARTS

Why assess private schools?

Private school data are essential for examining the picture of education in the United States and informing future policy decisions. Private schools represent about 23 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?

Your school has been selected to represent other private schools across the nation. Your participation is needed to ensure a complete picture of the academic progress of the nation's students, and 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).

The NAEP 2016 program in your school

From January 25 to March 4, 2016, NAEP will be administered in schools across the country. Students in grade 8 will participate in an arts assessment. Students will be assessed in either music or visual arts. The music assessment will measure students' ability to respond to music in various ways, including analyzing and describing music they will listen to. The visual arts assessment includes questions that measure students' ability to respond to art and includes activities asking students to create works of art. All materials will be provided by NAEP. Students will spend about 90 minutes on the music assessment and approximately 120 minutes on the visual arts assessment, which includes transition time and directions and completion

"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

For more information about NAEP visit:

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

of a student questionnaire. The questionnaire provides contextual information such as the kinds of experiences students have had with art and music in and outside of school.

The school principal will also be asked to complete a questionnaire. NAEP collects information from schools to provide a more complete understanding of the results. Topics such as school resources and policies can be important information for education stakeholders who need to gain a better picture of student performance.

Results of the arts assessment will be released in 2017. For more information about the arts assessment last conducted in 2008, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/arts>.

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 and equipment 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
- 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