



GRADE 8 CIVICS, GEOGRAPHY, U.S. HISTORY ASSESSMENTS

2014

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 represent other schools and students across the country.
- NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally.

Why assess private schools?

Private school data make an important contribution to the picture of education in the United States and to future policy decisions. Private schools represent about 25 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?

To obtain a complete picture of the academic progress of the nation's students, 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 Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

The NAEP 2014 program in your school

From January 27 to March 7, 2014, NAEP will be administered by trained NAEP representatives. Although several subjects will be assessed in 2014 at grade 8, individual students will be assessed in only one subject. Most students will spend approximately 90 minutes completing the civics, geography, or U.S. history assessments, as well as the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. In a small number of schools, students may be selected to participate in science pilots.

The school principal and the grade 8 teachers of the subjects being assessed will also be asked to complete a questionnaire. NAEP collects information from schools and teachers to provide a more complete understanding of the results. Topics such as classroom experience, teacher training, and school policies can be important information for education stakeholders who need to gain a better picture of student performance.

For more information about NAEP visit:

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

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 in order to draw a random sample 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 prior to assessment day
- Contacting the school coordinator to finalize assessment arrangements
- Bringing all assessment materials 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
- Supporting teachers' access to the teacher questionnaires
- Working with the NAEP representatives to provide a list of eligible students in order to draw a random sample 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

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