



2014

GRADES 4, 8, AND 12 SCIENCE PILOTS

NAEP in Your School

WHAT IS NAEP?

- ▶ The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.
- ▶ NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.
- ▶ First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
- ▶ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent schools and students across the United States.
- ▶ 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, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation.
- ▶ NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally.

National NAEP science pilots will be administered to a sample of fourth-, eighth-, or twelfth-grade students in your school in two formats: the traditional paper-and-pencil assessment and hands-on tasks (HOTs). Each student will take a science pilot in only one format.

Results will not be released but will be used to inform future NAEP science assessments.

What is involved?

The traditional paper-and-pencil assessment and HOTs will be administered between January 27 and March 7, 2014. Students will spend between 90 and 120 minutes completing the items, including transition time and directions. HOTs allow students to demonstrate how well they are able to plan and conduct scientific investigations, reason through complex problems, and apply their knowledge in real-world contexts. The complete library of released science HOTs from the 2009 assessment is available at http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009/ict_tasks.aspx?tab_id=tab2&subtab_id=Tab_1#tabsContainer. To learn more about HOTs, watch this short video at http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009/naep_hot.aspx.

All students who participate will be asked to complete a questionnaire that aims to get a better understanding of their educational experiences, such as the amount of reading they do and the amount of time they spend working on science activities. The school principal and science teachers will also complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to help provide contextual information for the results, as well as information about factors that may be related to students' learning.

Additional information will be collected about how students with disabilities and English language learners (SD/ELL) might participate in the assessment.

NAEP representatives will bring necessary materials and equipment to the school on assessment day. Schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment and desks or tables.



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

Find us on:



How many students are assessed?

Nationally, approximately 4,000 students in grades 4, 8, and 12 will be assessed.

Who is responsible for coordinating and administering NAEP?

Your NAEP State Coordinator, NAEP representatives, and school staff will work together to coordinate and administer the assessment.

A staff person in your school will need to be assigned to serve as the school coordinator and be the primary contact for the assessment.

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your state Department of Education and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ Communicating with principals to convey information about NAEP and the importance of student participation;
- ▶ Providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eligible students (if required) and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- ▶ Providing guidance for the inclusion of SD/ELL students; and
- ▶ Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

NAEP representatives are employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of eligible students;
- ▶ Verifying information that the school coordinator has provided via the MyNAEP website;
- ▶ Working with the school coordinator to finalize assessment logistics;

- ▶ Bringing all assessment materials, including laptop computers if necessary, to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ Conducting the assessment.

Each principal will be responsible for:

- ▶ Assigning a school staff member to serve as school coordinator;
- ▶ Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ▶ Empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP representative and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ Informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ▶ Confirming the scheduled assessment date with the NAEP State Coordinator;
- ▶ Registering for the MyNAEP website and providing information about the school;
- ▶ Submitting an electronic file of eligible students, if requested;
- ▶ Using the MyNAEP site to prepare for the assessment;
- ▶ Informing parents of the assessment (the NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished);
- ▶ Communicating with the NAEP representative to finalize assessment preparations; and
- ▶ Working with school staff to ensure high student participation in the assessment.

Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent at the beginning of the school year.



Get NAEP on the go with the *NAEP Results* mobile app!