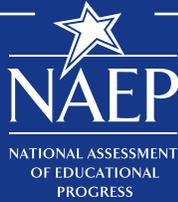


Measure Up

FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

NAEP NEWS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



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

WINTER 2014

- Grade 8 students in private schools selected for NAEP 2014 were assessed in civics, geography, U.S. history, technology and engineering literacy, and science pilots. Individual students were assessed in only one subject.

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

- NAEP 2014 assessments will be scored.
- Schools selected to participate in NAEP 2015 will be notified.

FALL 2014

- NAEP representatives will help private schools selected for NAEP 2015 prepare for the assessment.

THANK YOU

- Thank you to all private schools that participated in the NAEP 2014 assessment! It is only because of participation by schools like yours that NAEP is able to report results for private schools.



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

Find us on:



THE NAEP 2015 PROGRAM

- In 2015, NAEP will begin to transition the mathematics, reading, and science assessments from paper and pencil to technology-based assessments. Some private schools will take the traditional paper and pencil assessment, while other private schools will be asked to take a pilot technology-based assessment on tablets. Results will only be released from paper and pencil assessments. Each student will take NAEP in one format and one subject only, and NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools. Schools will only need to provide space for the assessment, desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the location (if necessary); schools will not need to provide Internet access.
- The NAEP 2015 Program
 - Paper and Pencil Assessments
 - Subjects: mathematics, reading, and science
 - Grades: 4, 8, and 12
 - Results: public and private school results for grades 4, 8, and 12
 - Pilot Technology-Based Assessments
 - Subjects: mathematics, reading, and science
 - Grades: 4, 8, and 12
 - Results: information collected from the pilots will not be released, but will be used to prepare for future assessments

WHAT IS A TECHNOLOGY-BASED ASSESSMENT?



- As computers and digital tools play an increasingly important role in today's classroom, NAEP is advancing with technology-based assessments. Technology-based assessments will be administered on tablets. The goal is to be paperless by the end of the decade. Through technology-based assessments, NAEP aims to collect new types of data that provide depth in our understanding of what students know and can do, including how they engage with technology to approach problem solving.

NAEP SCORING

- NAEP uses a combination of multiple-choice and constructed-response items (questions) in its assessment instruments. For multiple-choice items, students are required to select an answer from a list of options; responses are electronically scanned and scored. For constructed-response items, students are required to provide their own answers; responses are scanned and then scored by qualified and trained scorers using a scoring guide and an electronic image-processing and scoring system.
- Scoring all NAEP items in an objective, consistent, and valid fashion is a key program goal. There are a number of steps in the NAEP scoring process that occur during three general phases: scoring guide development and pilot, first operational scoring, and subsequent operational scoring. In all phases of scoring, quality control and validity checks are implemented in the scanning, processing, and scoring of multiple-choice items. To learn more about NAEP scoring, visit http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contracts/item_score.asp.

NAEP QUESTIONS TOOL

- What's New?
 - Try out the new NAEP Questions Tool!
 - NAEP has built a new tool that will let you search for questions, test yourself, and create customized tests.
 - The new tool contains hundreds of math and reading questions and offers new features that the existing tool doesn't have. Try it out!
 - The new tool contains math and reading items back to 2005. By summer 2014, all publicly available questions will be accessible in the new tool.



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 Scott Becker from Pearson, the organization that prints and distributes NAEP assessment materials and scans and scores student responses. Scott is a NAEP program manager for NAEP scoring whose primary responsibility is to provide support for the scoring of NAEP constructed-response items.

How long have you worked on the NAEP program?

I've worked on NAEP in various roles since 2003. I started as a scorer on NAEP reading in March of 2003 at Pearson's Virginia Beach scoring site. I served as a NAEP trainer for both reading and writing from 2005-2007. In August of 2007, I moved to Iowa City to begin my role as project manager for Pearson's federal programs team. As the senior project manager for NAEP scoring, I provide support for the scoring of constructed-response items across all NAEP subject areas.

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

My experiences as both a NAEP scorer and trainer have given me an excellent understanding of the NAEP scoring process from the ground up, which allows me to effectively serve the needs of both the NAEP program and the Pearson staff responsible for actually scoring NAEP student responses.

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

The most satisfying part of my job is finding satisfying solutions to the complex needs of the many different stakeholders involved in NAEP constructed-response scoring. The NAEP scoring process involves many different players with many different schedules and needs. Meshing all these moving pieces together in a coherent fashion that produces the best quality NAEP scoring in an appropriate time frame is very rewarding.

The most challenging part of my job is adjusting quickly to the many changes and adjustments that always seem to crop up. NAEP scoring is never dull!

Who scores NAEP items? How are scorers trained? Where are NAEP items scored?

NAEP constructed-response scorers all have 4-year college degrees. Beyond this single similarity they represent a broad spectrum of the American workforce. Some are recent college graduates while others are already retired from successful careers and everything in between.

NAEP scoring teams typically include 10-12 scorers and one supervisor. The team is led by a trainer who has spent several weeks mastering the content of the specific items the team will be scoring. Trainers lead their teams through paper training sets that present scorers with the item itself, the scoring guide explaining the various score categories for the item, and numerous examples of scored student responses demonstrating how the scoring guide should be applied.

NAEP items are scored at various Pearson scoring sites around the country. In any given year, NAEP may be scored at any or all of the following locations: Mesa, Arizona; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Columbus, Ohio; and Lansing, Michigan.

For more information on private school participation in NAEP visit:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nonpublicschools.aspx>