NAEP
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

2014

Facts for Districts

NAEP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

- Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.
- 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.
- Depending on the type of NAEP assessment that is administered, the data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and participating urban districts.
- Teachers can use sample NAEP questions, scoring guides, and performance data as a resource for understanding student achievement.

"Our school's NAEP representative was thorough and helpful throughout the assessment process. She answered all of our questions and ensured students would receive testing accommodations if needed. The individuals that came to the school to assess our students were professional and handled the process smoothly from beginning to end."

– Layla Serrano, School Counselor, Bartels Middle School, Tampa, FL

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in subjects such as civics, geography, mathematics, reading, science, technology and engineering literacy, U.S. history, and writing. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card.

District staff play an essential role in NAEP. Superintendents and district staff can work closely with principals to explain the importance of the assessment to teachers and students selected for participation. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. The table below shows which subjects will be assessed in 2014. Information collected from pilots is used to prepare for future NAEP assessments.

The NAEP 2014 Program

Grade	Subjects	National Results	Assessment Window
Grade 4	Science (Pilot)*		January 27 - March 7, 2014
Grade 8	Civics	✓	January 27 - March 7, 2014
	Geography	✓	
	Technology and Engineering Literacy	✓	
	U.S. History	✓	
	Science (Pilot)*		
Grade 12	Science (Pilot)*		January 27 - March 7, 2014

* Results will not be available for the science pilot. The assessment window for the science interactive computer tasks pilot will be March 17 – April 18, 2014.

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

Find us on:

It's important to know that...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Since the 1970s, long-term trend assessments have been administered to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds and are currently conducted every 4 years to gauge students' progress in mathematics and reading. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. Students in grades 4 and 8 are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years and in other subjects in alternating years. Grade 12 students are assessed in a variety of subjects, and results are typically released at the national level.

In 2014, the technology and engineering literacy (TEL) assessment will be operational for the first time. In addition to civics, geography, and U.S. history, the TEL assessment will also be conducted at grade 8 on computers provided by NAEP representatives. TEL measures students' capacity to use, understand, and evaluate technology, as well as to understand technological principles and strategies needed to develop solutions and achieve goals. To learn more about TEL, watch the overview video at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/videos/telanimation.

Pilots and other special studies are also conducted periodically. In 2014, students may be selected to participate in national science pilots. They will be administered in three formats: the traditional paper-and-pencil assessment, hands-on tasks (HOTs), and interactive computer tasks (ICTs). HOTs provide students an opportunity 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. ICTs ask students to solve problems in a computer-based environment, often by simulating a natural or laboratory setting. The complete library of released science HOTs and ICTs may be accessed at http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009/ict_tasks.aspx.

NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From the development of 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 is a trusted resource that measures student progress and helps inform policy decisions that improve education in the United States.

NAEP reports on results for different demographic groups rather than for individual students or schools. NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process to ensure that the schools and students selected are representative of schools and students across the United States. To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, NAEP allows a broad range of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners.

NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction. It takes approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities. Students are assessed in only one subject area. They are also asked to complete the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment but should encourage them to do their best. NAEP representatives provide significant support to participating schools and work with your designated school coordinator to organize assessment activities. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and administer the assessment.

NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. Teachers and district staff can use the NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx to see how students' performance compares nationally on specific items. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data.

District and school staff can also

- view results for the nation over time,
- compare results for various demographic groups, and
- access information designed for teachers, students, and parents.

Visit the NAEP website at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard to access this information and more.

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

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