NAEP SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES
Facts for Parents

NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States.

- NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From development to reporting results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation.

- NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. States have their own unique assessments with different content standards. The same NAEP assessment is administered in every state, providing a common measure of student achievement across the country.

- Depending on the type of NAEP assessment that is administered, the data can be used to compare and understand the performance of different student groups within the nation, your state, other states, and large urban districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment.

- Students, teachers, and principals who participate in NAEP are asked to complete survey questionnaires that provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that are related to students’ learning.

What are NAEP survey questionnaires?

NAEP survey questionnaires are voluntarily completed by students, teachers, and principals who participate in a NAEP assessment. Student survey questionnaires take about 15 minutes to complete. Students may answer as many questions as they like and may skip any question by leaving a response blank. NAEP survey questionnaires provide valuable information about participating students’ educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom.

NAEP survey questionnaires also collect information about a student’s race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status (defined broadly as one’s access to economic, social, and cultural resources), use of technology, and school climate. In addition, approximately half of the questions reflect the subject of the NAEP assessment the student has completed. Gathering this variety of information helps put NAEP assessment results into context. The data can be used to better determine how well education is meeting the needs of different student groups and how those various groups compare.

Responses are confidential and cannot be linked to any student’s identity or personal information. For further protection, information provided in the survey questionnaire is always handled according to federal standards and industry best practices.*

How are NAEP survey questionnaires going to help my child or my child’s school?

Information collected from NAEP survey questionnaires can be used to contribute to decisions about education policy that may improve schools and promote student progress across the nation. Students’ responses help highlight what is needed to improve education across the country. Although results are not reported at the individual student or school level, information gathered from NAEP survey questionnaires provides important data and insight for educators, policymakers, and researchers to better understand the educational experiences and needs of students in the United States.

How is information collected by NAEP survey questionnaires going to be used?

Once NAEP survey questionnaires are completed, all individual student responses are combined and grouped by grade level and subject. The responses are assembled into reports that summarize NAEP survey questionnaire results, including insights about student group topics such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, disability, and English language learner status. The reports highlight information to describe general, reliable, and valid estimates of student knowledge and academic performance.

*The information each student provides will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, student responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of $250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about students. Electronic submission of student information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

To learn more about NAEP survey questionnaires and to view actual survey questionnaires, visit http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/survey_questionnaires.aspx