What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an integral measure of academic progress over time. It is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects such as civics, mathematics, reading, science, technology and engineering literacy, U.S. history, and writing. The program also provides valuable insights into students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn in and outside of the classroom. Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.

NAEP is a congressionally mandated program administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.

What NAEP assessments will be administered in fall 2022?

The NAEP long-term trend assessment will be administered via paper and pencil to 13-year-olds between October 10 and December 16, 2022. NAEP long-term trend assessments measure student performance in mathematics and reading, and allow the performance of today's students to be compared with students since the early 1970s. Each student will be assessed in one subject only.

Students will also be asked to complete a survey questionnaire. They may answer as many questions as they like and 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 outside of the classroom, as well as how they have accessed learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be no teacher questionnaire, but a school questionnaire will be administered to gather information about school policies and characteristics, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Results will be released for the nation. Learn more about the long-term trend assessments at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ltt.

What can teachers and students expect?

It takes approximately 90 minutes to complete the long-term trend assessment. This includes transition time, directions and tutorials, and completion of a survey questionnaire. A broad range of accommodations are provided for students with disabilities and English learners. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment, but they should encourage students to do their best.

Who will administer NAEP? What do schools need to provide on the day of the assessment?

NAEP representatives will administer the NAEP assessment and provide significant support to schools on assessment day. They will wear necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow all school-specific health protocols. NAEP representatives will also bring all necessary materials and equipment. Schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment, including desks or tables.

“As a teacher, my constant focus is to help students make progress in the classroom. NAEP helps with this mission by creating a common measure of student achievement across the country.”

— Iris Garcia, Teacher, Biscayne Elementary Community School, Miami Beach, Florida
How are schools and students selected for NAEP?

Schools are selected as part of a carefully designed sampling process that ensures NAEP-selected schools and students are representative of all schools and students across the United States.

How is NAEP different from our state assessment?

NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. While 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.

NAEP and Teachers

HOW ARE TEACHERS ESSENTIAL PARTNERS IN NAEP?

Schools and students selected to participate in NAEP represent schools and students across the country. Teachers make an important contribution by encouraging their students to participate and to give their best effort; this helps ensure that NAEP results provide the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. To learn more about NAEP and view FAQs for teachers, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/educators/.

WHY ARE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PRINCIPALS ASKED TO COMPLETE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES?

In addition to subject-area questions, students participating in NAEP are asked to complete a survey questionnaire. Results from the questionnaire help put student achievement results into context, allow for meaningful comparison between student groups, and offer important insights for educators, policymakers, and researchers to better understand students’ educational experiences in the United States.

Teachers of students participating in NAEP are also asked to complete a survey questionnaire. The NAEP teacher survey questionnaire gathers information on teacher training and instructional practices. The questionnaire will be delivered via an online format, but teachers can request a paper-and-pencil version. There is no teacher questionnaire for the long-term trend assessment.

Principals or school administrators of students participating in NAEP are asked to complete a survey questionnaire that provides information about school policies and characteristics. The questionnaire will also be delivered via an online format, but a paper-and-pencil version is available upon request.

To learn more about NAEP survey questionnaires and view student, teacher, and school questionnaires from previous years, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/survey_questionnaires.aspx.
HOW CAN TEACHERS USE NAEP RESOURCES AND DATA TO HELP STUDENTS?

You can use the NAEP Questions Tool (https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt) to view released NAEP items and create customized assessments for your classroom. You can compare your students’ performance with their peers in your state and across the nation. Teachers, students, and parents can access information and also compare results for various demographic groups. Most released items include a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data.

The NAEP Data Explorer (https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore) is a powerful tool that allows you to examine the relationships between student performance and factors like instructional practices, school resources, and more.

HOW DO THE NAEP ONLINE DASHBOARDS HELP TEACHERS EXPLORE NAEP RESULTS AND MORE?

The Achievement Gaps Dashboard lets users explore achievement scores between two groups of students (e.g., male and female students or White and Black students). You can also examine the latest national results in all the NAEP subjects and students’ educational experiences by school type with the new Public, Private, and Charter Schools Dashboard.


The Monthly School Survey Dashboard (https://ies.ed.gov/schoolsurvey/) offers a monthly snapshot of learning opportunities (i.e., remote only, hybrid, or full-time in-person instruction) and attendance rates at schools across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. Survey results were collected from February through June 2021.

HOW LONG HAS NAEP BEEN AROUND?

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. The NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program, which measures student achievement in some of the nation’s large urban districts, began in 2002. The program has come to be recognized as the gold standard of large-scale assessments due to its high technical quality and rigorous design and methodology.

NAEP Results

The results of NAEP are released as The Nation’s Report Card. Depending on the assessment, NAEP results are available for the nation, states, and select urban districts that participate in TUDA. Results are also available for different student groups based on factors such as race/ethnicity, gender, school location, and more. NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools. Within a school, just some of the student population participates, and student responses are combined with those from other participating students to produce the results.

You can access data from previous assessments at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata and explore the most recent results at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/.

As part of main NAEP, students in grades 4 and 8 are scheduled to be assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years. Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, districts and states that receive Title I funds are required to participate in these biennial assessments. Other subjects are assessed periodically. NAEP long-term trend assessments allow the performance of today's students to be compared with students since the early 1970s and are administered periodically to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds.
RECENT NAEP RESULTS

Results from the NAEP assessments are released as they become available, following comprehensive scoring and analysis. Results from the 2020 long-term trend assessments for ages 9 and 13 were released in October 2021. Below are highlights from this interactive report, which is available at https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ltt/age=9

2020 LONG-TERM TREND ASSESSMENT AT AGES 9 AND 13

The 2020 average scores in the long-term trend reading and mathematics assessments for 9-year-old students were higher in 2020 than the first assessments in the early 1970s, but not significantly different from the average score in 2012, the previous assessment year. The 2020 average reading and mathematics scores for 13-year-olds were higher than the earliest assessments but declined since 2012.

Changes in NAEP long-term trend reading and mathematics average scores by age group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>2020 reading score compared to 2012</th>
<th>2020 mathematics score compared to 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 9</td>
<td>12 pts</td>
<td>22 pts</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5 pts</td>
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NOTE: Results for 1971 and 1973 are from the original assessment format, and results for 2012 and 2020 are from the revised assessment format. The 1973 mathematics data were extrapolated. See the About page for more information.

“The NAEP team that arrived at our school made the assessment process painless. Everyone on the team previously worked as an educator and interacted well with all of our students.”

—Kimberly Wilborn, Guidance Counselor, Sandburg Middle School, Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria, Virginia

More About NAEP

To learn about upcoming NAEP assessments, download NAEP reports, and access sample questions, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard. Explore the latest NAEP results at https://nationsreportcard.gov.


Learn what NAEP means for schools that are selected to participate and get the latest NAEP news in Measure Up: NAEP News for the School Community, available online at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/schools.aspx.

To hear teachers share their thoughts about why NAEP results are important, view the video Introducing NAEP to Teachers at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/participating/schools.aspx.

To find your NAEP state coordinator’s contact information, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states and select your state or jurisdiction from the drop-down menu.

For additional assistance, call the NAEP help desk at 800-283-6237.

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