

NAEP 2025 Field Test

FAQs about NAEP Modernizations



National Assessment of
Educational Progress

What is NAEP?

Also known as **The Nation's Report Card**, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of student achievement and their learning experiences in various subjects for the nation, states, and 27 urban districts. NAEP includes a range of subjects at grades 4, 8, and 12 to provide a comprehensive look at the wide array of academic areas that are a part of a student's education. Since 1969, NAEP has provided meaningful results to improve education policy and practice. NAEP is a congressionally authorized project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a division within the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Educational Sciences (IES).

Why is NCES modernizing NAEP?

NCES has made enhancements to the NAEP program since it began in 1969, focusing on efficiency, improving participant experiences, and ensuring the assessments reflect how and what students are learning. NCES is currently implementing modernizations that allow for more flexible and authentic assessment experiences. The goal is to have a flexible model for assessing students online, in any environment, and on familiar devices. Such advancements will ultimately allow NCES to assess students in a variety of settings or locations, including remotely as needed.

What modernization efforts were made in 2024?

In 2024, NAEP assessments were administered using school Internet for the first time. Using school Internet allows for more efficient assessment administration because NCES can monitor assessment progress in real time and respond more quickly if issues arise. Conducting NAEP on school Internet is also a step toward assessing students on familiar devices, such as their school laptops or tablets.

2024 was also the first time that assessments were administered on NAEP-provided Chromebooks, in addition to the traditionally used Microsoft Surface Pro tablets. The inclusion of Chromebooks was an important step towards the administration of NAEP on devices that students are familiar with, as Chromebooks are the device currently most utilized in schools.

When will the 2024 results be released?

NCES is planning to release the 2024 results in winter 2025. The reporting timeline is approximately 3 months longer than usual so that NCES can complete a bridge study to analyze the transition from administering NAEP only on Microsoft Surface Pro tablets to also administering NAEP on Chromebooks. The bridge study will analyze the comparability of scores obtained on Surface Pro and Chromebook devices and requires additional analyses and validity checks.

What modernizations are planned for NAEP in 2025 and 2026?

NCES will progress to administering NAEP using school Internet and on devices (e.g., desktops, laptops, or tablets with keyboards) that students are familiar with. Using familiar devices, students will be able to participate in NAEP in ways that are more authentic to their learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

In 2025, NAEP will conduct a field test to help refine processes, protocols, and system enhancements for future assessments. The modernizations will be fully implemented in 2026, informed by lessons learned from the 2025 field test.

What if my school doesn't meet the minimum technology requirements for the NAEP administration?

NCES understands that some schools will not be able to support NAEP's requirements for participation during this transition. Every school in the NAEP sample is important and representative of other schools of similar characteristics and, as such, needs to participate. If a school does not meet the minimum technology requirements, NAEP representatives will bring all the necessary equipment (including Chromebooks for students to take the assessment) and provide needed support to ensure participation.

What is driving NAEP's minimum specifications for the 2025 Field Test?

Transitioning to a flexible assessment model requires making the assessment more device agnostic, meaning that the assessment system will function in a similar manner on any device so that all students have a consistent assessment experience. Technology specifications are critically important in this effort.

- Some specifications help to minimize the differences between school devices and the devices that have been provided by NAEP (e.g., Microsoft Surface Pro tablets). One example for 2025 is touch, an input modality that has been offered since the transition to digitally based assessment as Surface Pro tablets have a touchscreen. These specifications will enable NCES to report trends in performance during the technology transition.
- Other specifications—such as the minimum requirements for internet bandwidth, processing speed, and device screen size—ensure the assessment application runs smoothly and that students can properly view and interact with the assessment's content.

How will NAEP ensure comparability for testing on NAEP-provided devices and school-provided devices?

The minimum specifications for the 2026 assessments outline NCES's requirements for devices that can be used for NAEP testing. These specifications allow students to have a similar testing experience in their interaction with the content and assessment platform.

NCES will conduct a bridge study in 2026 to allow the scores from school devices to be bridged to those from NAEP-provided devices, thereby analyzing the comparability of the scores.



What role will school or district staff have in preparing for the 2025 and 2026 NAEP assessments?

For a successful administration, school or district staff will be instrumental in helping confirm that the school's network and devices meet NAEP's minimum specifications. For schools that meet the minimum network and device specifications, designated school or district staff will need to install the NAEP Assessment Application following the instructions on the eNAEP Download Center and validate devices to confirm readiness for use on assessment day, including safelisting¹ specific URLs utilized by the NAEP assessment.

NCES will continue its longstanding practice of requiring a school coordinator to liaise with NAEP staff for the planning and facilitation of the 2025 and 2026 assessments. To support classroom management and provide students with a more comfortable testing experience, NCES will also request that school staff remain at testing sites if over 25 students are being assessed simultaneously and during sessions that provide certain accommodations for students, such as scribe, and cueing to stay on task, etc. NCES will also ask that school and district staff who have experience with the devices and technology used by the school be available during the testing session(s). School technology staff offer expertise in managing and working with the school devices and network and, thus, are best equipped to troubleshoot issues in this area.

¹Safelisting (also known as allowlisting) is an activity that ensures that the school's Wi-Fi will accept NAEP URLs and will not affect students taking the assessments.