

NAEP 2023

Facts for Districts



National Assessment of
Educational Progress

Grades 4, 8, and 12 Field Test

“NAEP is the only assessment providing half a century of performance data to measure what students know and can do. The state and national trends inform local, state, and national program and policy discussions that improve teaching and learning.”

—David Atherton, EdD, Principal, Clear Creek Middle School, Gresham, OR

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an integral measure of academic progress across the nation and 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 mathematics, reading, and science. The program also provides valuable insights into students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn in and outside of the classroom.

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.

How are NAEP results reported?

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 the Trial Urban District Assessment (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.

Why should my district participate in NAEP?

Your district's participation will help ensure that educators, policymakers, and elected officials have reliable data to better understand and improve student learning. Schools and students selected to participate in NAEP represent schools and students across the country. When students participate and give their best effort, NAEP results provide the most accurate and representative measure possible of student achievement and experience.

What NAEP assessments will be administered in 2023?

NCES will administer a NAEP field test at grades 4, 8, and 12 between March 20 and April 14, 2023. The NAEP 2023 field test will explore an online assessment platform and transition to different devices, such as Chromebooks, that may be more familiar to students. By participating in the field test, your district will help ensure that upcoming NAEP digitally based assessments continue to be a reliable, meaningful, and efficient measure of student achievement.

Results from the field test will not be publicly released, but will be used to inform future NAEP assessments.

What will students in my district do?

Students will complete the assessment on NAEP-provided devices. They will respond to questions in mathematics, reading, or science, and each student will answer questions in only one subject. Students will also complete a survey questionnaire about factors related to student learning, such as their educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and outside of the classroom.

It takes participating students approximately 2 hours to complete the assessment. This includes transition time, directions, and completion of a survey questionnaire. A broad range of accommodations are provided for students with disabilities and English learners.

How does my district need to prepare for the field test?

Your NAEP State Coordinator will contact your district test coordinator in August to provide additional details about the field test. At that time, your district test coordinator will be asked to identify a technology coordinator to complete a survey about each school's internet capabilities.

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

NAEP staff 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. Schools will need to provide space for students to take the assessment, including desks or tables. NAEP representatives will contact your district in the coming months with more information about participation in the 2023 field test.

Do teachers need to prepare students for the field test?

Teachers do not need to prepare their students for the field test but should encourage them to do their best.

How can school administrators and teachers use NAEP data to help our students?

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

Questions from previous NAEP assessments can also be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool (nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt) to see how their students' performance compares to peers in your state and across the nation. Released NAEP questions come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data.

How were schools in my district selected for NAEP?

Schools were selected as part of a carefully designed sampling process that ensures NAEP-selected schools and students are representative of your district, state, and the nation.

How is NAEP different from our state assessment?

NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. While states have their own unique assessments to measure student achievement against specific content standards, NAEP is designed to provide a common measure of student performance and progress across the country.

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 TUDA program, which measures student achievement in some of the nation's large urban districts, began in 2002. NAEP has come to be recognized as the gold standard of large-scale assessments due to its high technical quality and rigorous design and methodology.

How often is NAEP administered?

Students in grades 4 and 8 are scheduled to be assessed at the state and national 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.

Where can I find more information?

Learn more about the NAEP program at nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard, and explore the latest NAEP results at nationsreportcard.gov.

Visit nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/covid19.aspx for more information about NAEP COVID-19 protocols.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts the National Assessment of Educational Progress to evaluate federally supported education programs. All of the information you provide may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). By law, every 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 you. Electronic submission of your information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015.

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