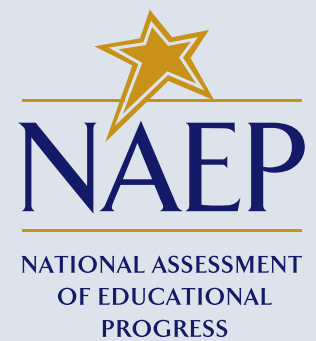


NAEP 2017

Facts for Principals

Writing Comparability Study



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 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).
- ▶ To provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that may be related to students' learning, students, teachers, and principals who participate in NAEP are asked to complete contextual questionnaires.

"As an assistant principal and school assessment coordinator who has experienced NAEP at two schools, I enjoyed working with the NAEP representatives. Their professionalism, responsiveness, and guidance made life simple for me and my students."

- Timothy Fifer, Assistant Principal, Delta Middle School, Delta County School District, CO

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

NAEP is designed to be minimally disruptive to schools, and NAEP representatives will provide significant support to your school on assessment day. As principals, you make an important contribution to the program by selecting and empowering a NAEP school coordinator, meeting with teachers and students who will participate in the assessment, and encouraging your students to participate and do their best. You are essential partners in NAEP. When students participate and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

The first operational writing digitally based assessment was administered on laptops in 2011. However, the writing assessment will shift delivery mode from laptops to tablets for the 2017 operational administration. As part of the NAEP 2017 program, a writing comparability study will be administered to a sample of approximately 3,000 grade 8 students in 120 schools. The study includes administering writing tasks via laptop to help NAEP evaluate any differences in student performance between tablet and laptop administrations. The study administration will be conducted from April 24 to May 19, after the main NAEP assessment window. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools on assessment day and administer the assessment to two groups of up to 15 students each. Schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment, desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location. Schools will not need to provide internet access.



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

It's important to know...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. 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 level in mathematics and reading every 2 years and in other subjects in alternating years. In 2002, NAEP began the TUDA program, which measures what students know and can do in some of the nation's large urban districts. Students, teachers, and schools are asked to complete a questionnaire in order to provide a more complete understanding of the results and overall student performance. NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

Special studies are also conducted periodically. They are administered as part of NAEP and often involve special data collection procedures in the field, secondary analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures.

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 up to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP assessment activities, including transition time and directions and completion of a student questionnaire. 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 your school by working with the designated coordinator in your school to organize assessment activities.

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/nqt> 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, states, and selected districts 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
Download it today on the iTunes or Google Play stores

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