



NAEP Assessment Ready

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation’s Report Card, will be administered this school year to Delaware students in grades 4 and 8, between January 29th and March 8th, 2024. The Delaware Department of Education is supporting schools with Assessment Ready Toolkits to promote an assessment-ready vs test-prep mindset.

How does Assessment-Ready differ from Test-Prep?

Test-Prep	Assessment-Ready
Supplanting curricula with test prep materials.	Instruction that helps students deeply understand the content that will be tested helps students improve their test results.
Instruction on test format and strategies rather than deep lessons on content.	Strategies that tap into higher order cognitive skills help students learn more and retain information better in the long term.
Telling students, “You are going to need to know this on the test.”	As the test approaches, focus on reducing student stress and helping students understand who they are as test takers.
Conducting six weeks of mini practice.	Taking one full-length practice test helps students tackle test anxiety and become “test-wise.”
Parents receive test prep packets to work on at home.	Parents receive communication around purpose and use of the assessment, and how results will be used.

Why is it important that Delaware students be 100% NAEP ready?

- **NAEP is the Nation’s Report Card** – NAEP provides the only national assessment that can be used to compare performance across states, allowing Delaware students, parents, educators, and employers to measure how our students perform relative to their peers across the country.
- **NAEP results will show the strength of Delaware schools** – NAEP 2024 provides the opportunity to get results that reflect the hard work being done by educators and students in Delaware’s schools.
- **NAEP results can let us know if recent school efforts are working** – Comparisons between student performance on NAEP 2024 and previous administrations of NAEP (which occur every other year) will allow Delaware to gauge how state initiatives are impacting student achievement.

DDOE support for Assessment Ready schools

➤ **Toolkit # 1: Establishing a Firm Foundation:**

- Provide ongoing instructional programming using High-Quality instructional materials.
- Use standards-aligned interim assessments to give students experience with standards-aligned questions and to investigate their understanding of recent classroom instruction.
- Review and reflect upon student work and group data sets to determine where individual students may need instructional assistance, or where group interventions or reteaching may be needed.

➤ **Toolkit # 2: Relieving Stress:**

- Standardized tests can create anxiety for children.
- Remind students that the NAEP assessment is nothing to be afraid of. Explain that NAEP and other state tests are designed to help the state and schools determine who may need additional help and how they can best provide that help.

➤ **Toolkit #3: Proactive Readiness:**

- Students will learn appropriate skills through instruction throughout the school year. Overfocusing on state assessments as a “goal” of instruction can create undue stress.
- Allow students to “play” in a practice test setting prior to any official test taking session so they can become comfortable with the test items.
- Offer test questions throughout instruction (aligned to recent learning) that at times allow students to reflect and share their thinking process “out loud” with one another, so they can collaborate on thinking and problem-solving strategies that they may or may not have thought of on their own.

➤ **Toolkit #4: Family and Community Communication:**

- Schools can ensure proactive communication throughout the year to ensure that students and their families are aware of instructional programming and the clear alignment with learning goals and assessment preparedness.
- Communicate regularly with parents/families to determine any external factors that may affect student motivation and/or intrinsic learning goals.
- Review “things that you can do at home” with parents and students as part of a coherent learning plan.

Reaching the Finish Line

- Toolkits open December 11, 2023. While most toolkits only take 15-30 minutes to review the content and submit a brief assignment, some of the assignments will take place at different times over the next few months. For example, using an interim will need to be timed with your curriculum, getting students into a practice test will take place prior to your testing date.
- When 75% of grades 4 and 8 teachers in a school have completed an assignment in each of the 4 toolkits, the principal or designee will email an assurance to Assessment.Ready@doe.k12.de.us. DOE will check PDMS for activity by the school and ensure all teachers receive their PDMS credit. Teachers will receive 2 clock hours for each Toolkit for a total of 8 clock hours.

All participating schools will receive an Assessment Ready banner and teachers can download an Assessment Ready certificate.

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