

# NAEP 2019

## Facts for Principals

Grades 4 and 8



Mathematics



Reading



Science

National Assessment of  
Educational Progress

### 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). NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.
- ▶ 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 survey questionnaires.

*"The NAEP representatives were informative and provided specific instructions when administering the assessment. Their professionalism and knowledge before the assessment ensured that the students had a positive experience with NAEP."*

-Amneris Montalvo, NAEP School Coordinator, Citrus Grove Middle School, Miami, FL

**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 various subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, 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 participating students, and encouraging your students to participate and do their best. You are essential partners in NAEP. When students participate and give their best effort, NAEP results provide the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

**In 2019, the NAEP science assessment and pilot assessments in mathematics and reading will be administered on tablets to students at grades 4 and 8.** A small number of students may take the science assessment via paper and pencil. Administering this assessment via both tablet and paper and pencil will help in evaluating any differences in student performance between the two types of administration. Each student will be assessed in one format and one subject only. Science results will be released at the national level. Results from the pilot assessments will be used to ensure that future NAEP assessments continue to be a reliable measure of student achievement. By participating in pilot assessments, schools and students take an active role in how NAEP is administered and how other students will experience the assessment. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment, including tablets with keyboards, to schools on assessment day. 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](http://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 periodically. The NAEP TUDA program, which measures student achievement in some of the nation's large urban districts, began in 2002.

**Special studies will also be conducted in 2019.** Some students may be selected to answer additional contextual questions, as part of the NAEP student survey questionnaire, for special studies to help put NAEP achievement results into context and better understand how well education is meeting the needs of all students.

For more information about NAEP special studies, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies>.

**NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality.** From the development of assessment 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 results are reported for different demographic groups rather than for individual students 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. Student responses on NAEP are confidential, and the privacy of each participating school and student is essential.\* Names of participating students never leave the school and are not associated with the digital or paper test booklet after the student takes the assessment.

**A carefully designed sampling process ensures that NAEP-selected schools and students are representative of all schools and students across the United States.** To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, a broad range of accommodations are allowed for students with disabilities and English language learners.

**NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction.** Including transition time, directions, and completion of a survey questionnaire, it takes approximately 120 minutes for students to complete digital assessments and up to 90 minutes for students to complete paper-and-pencil assessments. 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 (<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.

Visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> to access this information and more.

\*The information each student provides will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, student responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every National Center for Education Statistics (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 students. Electronic submission of student information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

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