

## Facts for Principals

NAEP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

- ▶ Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP resources and results to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP provides a common measure of student achievement across the country.
- ▶ NAEP data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and participating urban districts.
- ▶ Teachers can use sample NAEP questions and scoring guides as a resource for understanding student performance.
- ▶ In 2013, the NAEP program will include a new computer-based technology and engineering literacy (TEL) pilot and other special studies, which will help inform future assessments.

“NAEP has excellent resources for both novice and veteran teachers. The NAEP Questions Tool, for example, offers teachers a database of over 2,000 high-quality questions they can use to measure performance and needs of students in their classrooms.”

– Dr. William A. Milledge, Jr., Assistant Principal, Brewbaker Middle School, Montgomery, AL

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative assessment of what our nation’s students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation’s Report Card, and are available for the nation, states, and for districts participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

As principals, you are essential partners in NAEP. You make an important contribution by selecting and empowering a NAEP school coordinator, by meeting with teachers and students who will participate in the assessment, and by encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and give their best effort, we get the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country. The table below depicts which subjects will be assessed in 2013.

The NAEP 2013 Program				
Grade	Subject	National Results	State Results	TUDA Results
Grade 4	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓	✓
Grade 8	Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓	✓
	TEL (Pilot)*			
Grade 12	Mathematics	✓	✓	
	Reading	✓	✓	

\* Results will not be available for the TEL pilot.

✓ Results for grade 12 will be released only for 13 participating states.



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

Find us on:



## It's important to know that...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Since the 1970s, long-term trend assessments have been administered to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds and are currently conducted every 4 years to gauge students' progress in mathematics and reading. In 1990, NAEP was first administered at the state level. Fourth- and eighth-grade students are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years and in other subjects in alternating years. Twelfth-grade students are assessed in a variety of subjects, and results are typically released at the national level only. In 2013, however, 13 states will receive state results in mathematics and reading. In 2002, NAEP began the TUDA program, which measures what students know and can do in some of the nation's large urban districts. In 2013, 21 districts will participate and receive district-level NAEP results in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8.

**Pilot assessments and other special studies are also conducted periodically.**

In 2013, students may be selected to participate in the TEL pilot assessment or other special studies such as the Read-Aloud Accommodations study. The TEL pilot will be administered on laptops provided by NAEP, and will measure students' capacity to use, understand, and evaluate technology as well as to understand technological principles and strategies needed to develop solutions and achieve goals.

**NAEP is the only measure that allows for valid comparisons of student performance to be made across states and participating urban districts.**

A state's own assessment is a valuable tool for providing information on student performance in that particular state. Because state assessments vary from state to state, their results cannot be used to compare student performance across the country. Results from NAEP can be compared, however, because the same assessment is given to students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and participating urban districts.

**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 assesses a representative sample of students and schools, and reports 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 all students across the United States. The NAEP assessment allows a broad array of accommodations so that students with disabilities and English language learners are represented in the sample.

**NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of instruction.**

It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete the NAEP assessment. Students will answer questions in just one of the various subject areas and will also be asked to fill out the student questionnaire, which provides contextual information, such as the amount of reading students do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment, but they should encourage them to try their best. NAEP staff members administer the assessment and work with your designated NAEP school coordinator to organize assessment activities.

**NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource.**

Teachers can use actual NAEP questions that have been released to see how students' performance compares nationally on specific items. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data. All of this information is provided in the NAEP Questions Tool, which can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/>.

On the NAEP website, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>, school staff can also

- ▶ view results for the nation over time,
- ▶ compare results for various demographic groups, and
- ▶ access information designed for teachers, students, and parents.