What’s Happening in the World of NAEP?

Winter 2018

• Assessment window: January 29–March 9, 2018
• Grades 4 and 8: Reading special studies and science pilot assessments
• Grade 8: Civics, geography, technology and engineering literacy (TEL), and U.S. history assessments
• Grade 12: Mathematics, reading, and science pilot assessments

What Subjects Does NAEP Assess?

NAEP assessments are conducted in a range of subjects at grades 4, 8, and 12 across the country. Assessments are given most frequently in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. Other subjects, including the arts, civics, economics, geography, technology and engineering literacy (TEL), and U.S. history, are assessed periodically. NAEP assessment results are reported at the national, state, and some urban district levels. For more information on the subjects NAEP administers, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subjectareas.aspx.

THE NAEP 2018 Assessments

Civics, geography, and U.S. history
The NAEP civics, geography, and U.S. history assessments will be administered to eighth-grade students on NAEP-provided tablets. A small number of eighth-grade students, in a session separate from those taking the assessments on tablets, may take paper-and-pencil assessments in civics, geography, and U.S. history. Administering these assessments via both tablet and paper and pencil will help evaluate any differences in student performance between the two types of administration.

Technology and engineering literacy (TEL)
The TEL assessment measures students’ capacity to use, understand, and evaluate technology as well as understand technological principles and strategies. In 2018, eighth-grade students who take this interactive assessment will be asked to complete computer simulations of technology and engineering scenario-based tasks set in a variety of real-world contexts. To view a sample grade 8 TEL question, please see the image below. To view sample scenario-based tasks and explore the results of the 2014 TEL assessment, visit https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/tel_2014.

Pilot assessments and special studies
Reading special studies and science pilot assessments on tablets at grades 4 and 8. Students in grade 12 will take mathematics, reading, and science pilot assessments. Science pilot assessments will include hands-on tasks in which students use materials and laboratory equipment to perform actual science experiments. To explore hands-on tasks online, visit https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009.

NAEP special studies are conducted periodically. They are administered as part of NAEP and often involve special data collection procedures in the field, in-depth analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures. Results from these pilot assessments and special studies will be used to inform NAEP assessments. For more information about NAEP special studies, visit http:wcies.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies.

NAEP-NTPS Linking Study
A small number of schools will participate in a pilot linking study to explore the feasibility of administering both NAEP and the National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) to a common set of teachers and schools as part of the NAEP administration. The NAEP and NTPS questionnaires gather data that contribute to a better understanding of educational progress, as well as teacher and school staff experiences across the nation. The linking study will include selected schools, teachers, and principals that participate in NAEP pilot administrations. To learn more about this linking study and why participation is important, view the NAEP-NTPS Linking Study Facts for Schools PDF at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/about/pdf/schools/naep_ntps_linking_study_facts_for_schools.pdf.

NAEP survey questionnaires
NAEP survey questionnaires are voluntarily completed by students, teachers, and principals who participate in a NAEP assessment. Learn more about the NAEP student survey questionnaires from the teacher fact sheet on the next page. The fact sheet can also be printed single-sided on one page.
NAEP STUDENT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES
Facts for Teachers

What are NAEP survey questionnaires?

NAEP survey questionnaires are administered to students, teachers, and school administrators as part of the NAEP assessment and collect contextual information to provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that are related to students’ learning both in and out of the classroom. Student questionnaires only take 15 minutes to complete.

What types of questions will my students be asked?

To better determine how education is meeting the needs of all student groups, NAEP survey questionnaires gather student information on a variety of topics, including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, technology use, and school climate. In addition, approximately half of the questions reflect the subject of the NAEP assessment the student has completed.

NAEP ensures that the questions are grounded in educational research and that the responses can provide information relevant to the subject being assessed.

Why is it important for my students to complete the questionnaire?

Your students’ responses help put student achievement results into context and allow for meaningful comparison between student groups. Each student's answers, along with the answers from other participating students across the nation, highlight what it takes to improve education in the United States. Policymakers, researchers, and educators like yourself can use the data to better understand the education experiences and needs of various demographic groups. Explore survey questionnaire data with the NAEP Data Explorer at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata.

Are my students required to participate? How does NAEP ensure their privacy?

Participation is voluntary, and students may skip any question. NAEP survey questionnaire responses are confidential. All participants in the NAEP assessment are assigned a unique identification number to ensure that they cannot be linked to any personally identifiable information. Responses are combined with data from all other students, and no data on any individual student can ever be identified.

To learn more about NAEP survey questionnaires and view actual questionnaires, visit https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/survey_questionnaires.aspx.
NCES: Commemorating 150 Years of Innovation


The first federal office of education was created in 1867 by Congress to collect “such statistics and facts as shall show the condition and progress of education in the States and territories and shall aid the people of the United States in the establishment and maintenance of efficient school systems.” Today, 150 years later, NCES is proud to celebrate this mission and to continue to report on the condition of education in the United States relative to other nations with relevant, timely, and high quality data.

The U.S. Department of Education was created during a period of rapid technological and economic and social change, with the end of the Civil War, reconstruction, and the Industrial Revolution. The first Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 granted federally controlled lands to states to establish land grant colleges. Many states expanded their free common schooling, and the Federal Freedman’s Bureau opened publicly funded schools across the south, providing the opportunity of formal education for the first time to many former slaves. At that time, President Andrew Johnson signed the legislation creating NCES. Educators have been advocating for decades for the creation of an agency to monitor and report on the condition and progress of the growing country’s education system. During the annual meeting of the National Association of School Superintendents in Washington, D.C. in 1866, the superintendents drafted the bill [to create a federal agency] and Congressman James A. Garfield of Ohio, a former teacher who later became President, championed the bill in the House. Henry Bernard, a prominent Connecticut educator who advocated that the 1840 census gather data on illiteracy and on the existence and condition of educational institutions, became the first commissioner.

Over time there have been name changes, such as the Bureau of Education and the Office of Education, and changes in departments: the Department of Interior, then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and now the Department of Education.

From its beginning 150 years ago, NCES is now the third largest of the 13 primary federal statistical agencies. It is the source of education statistics for policymakers, researchers, educators, parents, students and media. NCES provides deeper insights into our educational system through longitudinal surveys; reliable, independent benchmarks for states, localities, and the institutions across this country; and data for the international benchmarkings.