

# NAEP 2024 in Your School

Grade 8



Science

National Assessment of  
Educational Progress

## What is NAEP?

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.**

- ▶ First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects such as civics, mathematics, reading, science, and U.S. history.
- ▶ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent schools and students across the country.
- ▶ NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing 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 common measure of academic progress across the nation and over time. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card.

NAEP will be administered on Surface Pros and Chromebooks to a sample of eighth-grade students in science between January 29 and March 8, 2024. In 2024, NAEP will continue to examine transitions to online assessments and using devices that students are most familiar with. Such shifts will help to ensure the program can flexibly, meaningfully, and reliably measure trends in student achievement and experiences over time.

Results for the 2024 science assessments will be reported for the nation. NAEP results are used by teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers to assess students' progress in various subject areas and develop ways to improve education in the United States.

## What is involved?

Each student will be assessed in one subject only. It takes approximately 2 hours for students to complete the assessment, including transition time, directions, and completion of survey questions. NAEP survey questionnaires aim to get a better understanding of students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both inside and outside of the classroom.

The school principal and grade 8 teachers of the subjects being assessed will also complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to provide contextual information for the assessment results, as well as information about factors that may be related to students' learning.

Additional information will be collected about how students with disabilities and English learners will participate in the assessment and the accommodations they will receive.

Visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/covid19.aspx> for more information about NAEP health and safety protocols.



For more information about NAEP, visit [nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard)

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# It's important to know...

## Who will be responsible for coordinating and administering NAEP?

Your NAEP State Coordinator, NAEP representatives, and school staff will work together to coordinate and administer the assessment. You will need to assign a member of your school's staff to serve as the **school coordinator** and be the primary contact for the assessment. This person should be

- ▶ familiar with how students participate in statewide assessments; and
- ▶ comfortable using a computer to collect and enter student information online.

## The NAEP State Coordinator works at your state department of education and will be responsible for:

- ▶ working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ communicating with principals about the importance of NAEP and student participation;
- ▶ providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eighth-grade students and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- ▶ providing guidance for including students with disabilities and English learners; and
- ▶ responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

## NAEP representatives employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools will be responsible for:

- ▶ selecting a random sample of students from the school list of eighth-graders;
- ▶ verifying information that the school coordinator has provided via the the Assessment Management System (AMS) website, which will serve as the primary resource and action center throughout the NAEP assessment process;
- ▶ working with the school coordinator to finalize assessment logistics;
- ▶ bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ administering the assessment.

## Each principal will be responsible for:

- ▶ assigning a school staff member to serve as school coordinator;
- ▶ including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ▶ empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP representative and NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

## The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ▶ confirming the scheduled assessment date with the NAEP State Coordinator;
- ▶ registering for the AMS website and providing information about the school;
- ▶ if requested, overseeing the submission of an electronic list of eighth-grade students;
- ▶ using the AMS website to prepare for the assessment;
- ▶ notifying parents of the assessment (more information will be provided on how to complete this task);
- ▶ communicating with the NAEP representative and participating in a Assessment Planning Meeting via Zoom to finalize assessment preparations;
- ▶ reserving space for the assessment, including room(s), desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location; and
- ▶ collaborating with school staff to ensure a high rate of student participation.

## Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent at the beginning of the school year.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct NAEP by the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. §9622) and to collect students' education records from education agencies or institutions for the purposes of evaluating federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3)(iii) and 99.35). All of the information provided by participants may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). By law, every 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 participants. Electronic submission of participant's 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.