



# NAEP

## Information for Families

### What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP assessments have been conducted annually in reading and mathematics, with additional subjects tested each year such as science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, technology and engineering literacy, the arts, and other subjects, beginning in 1969. NAEP collects and reports academic achievement at the national level, and for certain assessments, at the state and district levels.

To see which subjects and grades are tested each year, view the NAEP Schedule of Assessments at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/calendar.aspx>.

Districts and schools are sampled each year for NAEP assessments. The NAEP State Coordinator in Wisconsin notifies districts and schools of their selection to participate by the beginning of the school year. When students are selected to participate, the school must inform parents about the participation; this usually takes place in December or January.

### How are NAEP test results used?

Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common measure for all states and selected urban districts. The assessment stays basically the same from year to year. This allows NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time. All students' results are used to produce state and/or national results (depending on the year and the test).

NAEP produces the Nation's Report Card to inform the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary

students in the United States. This report is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

The results are widely reported by the national and local media and are an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education.

NAEP results are based on representative samples of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 for the main assessments, or samples of students at ages 9, 13, or 17 years for the long-term trend assessment.

### What type of scores will be provided?

NAEP **does not** provide scores for individual students or schools, although NAEP can report results by selected large urban districts. NAEP does provide state and national results. NAEP provides results on subject-matter

achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., all 4<sup>th</sup> graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., female students, Hispanic students).

## Are the data confidential?

Federal law dictates complete privacy for all test-takers and their families. Under the *National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act*, the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is charged with ensuring that NAEP tests do not question test-takers about personal or family beliefs or make information

about their personal identity publicly available.

After publishing NAEP reports, NCES makes data available to researchers but withholds students' names and other identifying information. The names of all participating students are not allowed to leave the schools after NAEP assessments are administered.

## What Standards are NAEP based on?

The National Assessment Governing Board develops the NAEP frameworks. Visit <https://www.nagb.gov/> for information about the Governing Board. Frameworks capture a range of subject-specific content and thinking skills needed by students in order to deal with the complex issues they encounter inside and outside their classrooms. The frameworks are available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/assessments/frameworks.aspx>.



## How are students with disabilities and English learners included

The NAEP program wants to assess all students selected as a part of its sampling process. In all NAEP schools, accommodations will be provided as necessary for students with disabilities (SD) and/or English learners (EL). Inclusion in NAEP of an SD and/or EL student is encouraged if that student:

(a) participated in the regular state academic assessment in the subject being tested, and (b) if that student can participate in NAEP with the accommodations NAEP allows. In most cases, the accommodations for NAEP are the same or similar to the accommodations allowed on state assessments.

## Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

The NAEP Questions Tool, available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt>, provides access to released questions from NAEP assessments in all NAEP subject areas. The tool provides the percentage of students nationwide who answered each question correctly, and how students' performance on a

given question corresponds to their overall scores.

For more information about NAEP, contact the Office of Educational Accountability at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov) or visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/naep> and <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents/>.

