



# School Background Questionnaire

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**2006**  
**Grade 8**

# SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

## GRADE 8

During the 2005–2006 school year, a sample of students across the country, including some students from your school, will be given a series of questions as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The current assessment focuses on achievement in U.S. history, civics, economics, reading, writing, and mathematics. As part of the assessment, NAEP will investigate the relationship between students' achievement and various school, teacher, and home factors that may influence this achievement. We are asking your school to complete this questionnaire about school factors. **This questionnaire should be completed by the principal or other head administrator.**

We realize that you are very busy; however, we urge you to complete the questionnaire as carefully as possible. All responses that relate to or describe identifiable characteristics of teachers or schools may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose, unless otherwise compelled by law.

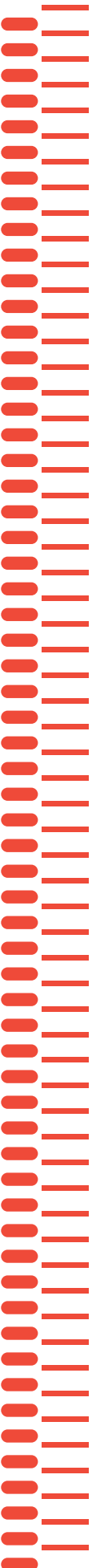
NAEP is authorized under Public Law 107–110. While your participation is voluntary, your responses to these questions are needed to make this survey accurate and complete.

### Instructions

**Please record your answers online, following the instructions on the front cover. If you do not have Internet access, please answer questions directly on this questionnaire by filling in the appropriate ovals.**

If you do answer questions directly on this questionnaire, please return the questionnaire to your school's NAEP coordinator when you are finished.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**



## School Questionnaire – Grade 8

This questionnaire should be completed by the principal or the head of the school.

Some of the questions that follow ask you to fill in specific numbers. For those questions, please print the appropriate numbers in the boxes provided. Please PRINT LEGIBLY. Using one number per box, fill in every box. Keep all printing within the boxes. Do not make any stray marks. Use only a No. 2 pencil.

Example:  
150 would be written as

,

Examples of numerals are:

## Part I: School Characteristics and Policies

VB337248

1. What grades are taught in your school? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

- (A) Pre-kindergarten
- (B) Kindergarten
- (C) 1st grade
- (D) 2nd grade
- (E) 3rd grade
- (F) 4th grade
- (G) 5th grade
- (H) 6th grade
- (I) 7th grade
- (J) 8th grade
- (K) 9th grade
- (L) 10th grade
- (M) 11th grade
- (N) 12th grade

VB556165

2. Do all students in your school follow the same school calendar?

- (A) Yes → *Go to Question 3*
- (B) No → *Skip to Question 4*

VB607886

3. Please indicate the number of hours of instruction that eighth-grade students in your school completed as of February 1, 2006.

,  hours of instruction as of February 1, 2006

VB607887

4. For each group of students following a separate calendar, please indicate the number of hours of instruction that eighth-grade students in your school completed as of February 1, 2006.

First group: ,  hours of instruction as of February 1, 2006

VB607888

Second group: ,  hours of instruction as of February 1, 2006

VB607889

Third group: ,  hours of instruction as of February 1, 2006

VB607890

VB337250

5. What is the current enrollment in your school?

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VB337256

6. Of the students currently enrolled in your school, what percentage has been identified as limited-English proficient?

- (A) 0%
- (B) 1–5%
- (C) 6–10%
- (D) 11–25%
- (E) 26–50%
- (F) 51–75%
- (G) 76–90%
- (H) Over 90%

7. What type of school is this? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.

- Ⓐ Regular middle or secondary school
- Ⓑ A regular school with a magnet program
- Ⓒ A magnet school or a school with a special program emphasis, e.g., science/math school, performing arts school, talented/gifted school, foreign language immersion school, etc.
- Ⓓ Special education: a school that primarily serves students with disabilities
- Ⓔ Alternative: a school that offers a curriculum designed to provide alternative or nontraditional education, not clearly categorized as regular, special education, or vocational
- Ⓕ Private (independent)
- Ⓖ Private (religiously affiliated)
- Ⓗ Charter school
- Ⓘ Privately run public school
- Ⓙ Other \_\_\_\_\_

8. About what percentage of your students is absent on an average day? (Include excused and unexcused absences in calculating this rate.)

- Ⓐ 0–2%
- Ⓑ 3–5%
- Ⓒ 6–10%
- Ⓓ More than 10%

9. About what percentage of your teachers is absent on an average day? (Include all absences in calculating this rate.)

- Ⓐ 0–2%
- Ⓑ 3–5%
- Ⓒ 6–10%
- Ⓓ More than 10%

10. About what percentage of students who are enrolled at the beginning of the school year is still enrolled at the end of the school year? (Exclude students who transfer into the school during the school year in figuring this rate.)

- Ⓐ 98–100%
- Ⓑ 95–97%
- Ⓒ 90–94%
- Ⓓ 80–89%
- Ⓔ 70–79%
- Ⓕ 60–69%
- Ⓖ 50–59%
- Ⓗ Less than 50%

11. About what percentage of this year's eighth graders was held back and is repeating eighth grade?

- Ⓐ 0%
- Ⓑ 1–2%
- Ⓒ 3–5%
- Ⓓ 6–10%
- Ⓔ More than 10%

HE000920

12. Of the full-time teachers who started in your school last year, what percentage left before the end of the school year?

- Ⓐ 0%
- Ⓑ 1–2%
- Ⓒ 3–5%
- Ⓓ 6–10%
- Ⓔ 11–15%
- Ⓕ 16–20%
- Ⓖ More than 20%

HE002094

13. Does your school participate in the National School Lunch Program?

- Ⓐ Yes → *Go to Question 14*
- Ⓑ No → *Skip to Question 17*

VB556173

14. How does the school operate the program?

- Ⓐ Student eligibility is determined individually, and eligible students receive free or reduced-price lunch. → *Skip to Question 16*
- Ⓑ All students in school receive free lunch under special provisions (e.g., Provision 2 or 3). → *Go to Question 15*





15. If your school distributes free lunch to all students under Provision 2 or 3, what was the base year during which individual student eligibility was collected?

- Ⓐ This school does not distribute free lunch to all students under Provision 2 or 3—eligibility is determined annually.
- Ⓑ 2005
- Ⓒ 2004
- Ⓓ 2003
- Ⓔ 2002
- Ⓕ 2001
- Ⓖ 2000 or earlier

16. During this school year, about what percentage of students in your school was eligible to receive a free or reduced-price lunch through the National School Lunch Program?

- Ⓐ 0%
- Ⓑ 1–5%
- Ⓒ 6–10%
- Ⓓ 11–25%
- Ⓔ 26–34%
- Ⓕ 35–50%
- Ⓖ 51–75%
- Ⓗ 76–99%
- Ⓘ 100%

VB608488

17. Does your school receive Title I funding? (Title I is a federally funded program which provides educational services, such as remedial reading or remedial math, to children who live in areas with high concentrations of low-income families.)

- A No
- B Yes, our school receives funds, which are targeted to eligible students.
- C Yes, our school receives funds, which are used for schoolwide purposes.

VB485284

18. Approximately what percentage of students in your school receives the following services? Fill in **one** oval on each line. Students who receive more than one service should be counted for each service they receive. Please report the percentage of students who receive each of the following services as of the day you respond to this questionnaire.

	None	1-5%	6-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-90%	Over 90%	
a. Targeted Title I services	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB610145
b. Gifted and talented program	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485286
c. Instruction provided in student's home language (non-English)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485287
d. English-as-a-second-language (not in a bilingual education program)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485288
e. Special education	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	<input type="radio"/> H	VB485289



## Part II: U.S. History and Civics

For the purposes of this questionnaire, “civics” means the study of basic concepts about the theory and practice of constitutional democracy in the United States. Also included is the development of intellectual and participatory civic skills, as well as the disposition to assume the rights and responsibilities of individuals in society.

VB338391

1. At what grade do students in your school typically take the following classes? Fill in **all** ovals that apply.

	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade	9th grade	This class is not offered in my school	
a. A class primarily focused on U.S. history	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB338392
b. Social studies (including classes with titles such as global studies or world studies)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB338394
c. A class primarily focused on civics or government	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VB608491

## Part III: Mathematics

VB525194

1. What percentage of **eighth-grade** students in your school enrolls in more than one mathematics class in a year (including summer school) for the purpose of **remediation or to catch up to grade level**? Do **not** include students who receive additional mathematics instruction as part of special education or because of IEP provisions.
- Ⓐ None
  - Ⓑ 1 to 5 percent
  - Ⓒ 6 to 10 percent
  - Ⓓ 11 to 20 percent
  - Ⓔ More than 20 percent

VB525195

2. What percentage of **eighth-grade** students in your school enrolls in more than one mathematics class in a year (including summer school) for the purpose of **advancement or to get ahead of grade level**?
- Ⓐ None
  - Ⓑ 1 to 5 percent
  - Ⓒ 6 to 10 percent
  - Ⓓ 11 to 20 percent
  - Ⓔ More than 20 percent

VB525185

3. What percentage of **eighth-grade** students in your school is enrolled in the following mathematics classes? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	None	1-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-90%	91-100%	
a. Eighth-grade mathematics (not algebra or pre-algebra)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525186
b. Introduction to algebra or pre-algebra	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525187
c. Algebra I (one-year course)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525188
d. Algebra I (first year of two-year course)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525189
e. Algebra I (second year of two-year course)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB517155
f. Geometry	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525190
g. Algebra II	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525191
h. Integrated or sequential mathematics	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	<input type="radio"/> F	<input type="radio"/> G	VB525192

VC084852

4. Do students who complete a one-year course in Algebra I by the end of **eighth-grade** receive high-school credit?

- A Yes
- B No

VC084854

5. Do you offer an **eighth-grade** course of at least one semester in length that focuses **exclusively** on algebra?

- A Yes
- B No, algebra is taught as part of a broader course in mathematics

VB525196

6. Are **eighth-grade** students typically assigned to mathematics classes by ability and/or achievement levels (so that some classes are higher in average ability and/or achievement levels than others)?

- A Yes
- B No

VC084859

7. Is there a district-wide mathematics coordinator available to your school?

- A Yes → *Go to Question 8*
- B No → *Skip to Question 9*

VC084855

8. Is each of the following a responsibility of the district-wide mathematics coordinator available to your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

**Yes**                      **No**

a. Provide technical assistance/support to individual teachers about mathematics content or the teaching of mathematics

- A                       B

VC084856

b. Conduct in-service training for groups of teachers about mathematics content or the teaching of mathematics

- A                       B

VC084857

VC084858

9. Is there a department chair for mathematics in your school?

- A Yes
- B No



## Part IV: Reading and Writing

VB380370

1. During the last two years, to what extent have professional development activities offered to teachers in your school focused on the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	
a. Use of language arts across the curriculum	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB380371
b. Interpreting and analyzing literature	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB380372
c. Understanding the process of reading or writing	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB380373
d. Instructional strategies for teaching language arts	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	VB380374

## Part V: Charter School

If your school is a charter school, please continue. If your school is not a charter school, you have finished the survey. Thank you for your time.

1. In which year did your school start providing instruction as a charter school?

VC104697

2. How many times has your charter been **renewed**? (If “0 Times” *skip to Question 5*)

VC104699

 Times

3. In which year was your charter most recently renewed?

VC104700

4. For how many years was your charter renewed?

VC104701

- Ⓐ 1 to 3 years
- Ⓑ 4 to 5 years
- Ⓒ 6 to 10 years
- Ⓓ 11 or more years





5. Who **granted** your school's original charter?

- Ⓐ School district
- Ⓑ State board of education (includes State Board of Regents and District of Columbia Board of Education)
- Ⓒ Postsecondary institution
- Ⓓ State charter-granting agency
- Ⓔ City or state public charter school board
- Ⓕ Other

6. Is your charter school a **newly created school** or was it converted from a **pre-existing school**?

- Ⓐ Newly created school → *Skip to Question 8*
- Ⓑ Converted from a pre-existing school → *Go to Question 7*

7. Was the pre-existing school a public school or a private school?

- Ⓐ Public school
- Ⓑ Private school

VC104758

8. Which one of the following best describes your charter school's **primary** focus in terms of program content?

- Ⓐ We have a comprehensive curriculum with no specialized area of focus.
- Ⓑ We have a special curricular focus, for example, the arts, math/science, foreign language immersion.
- Ⓒ Our curriculum is based on a particular educational theory, for example, Montessori, open school, Core Knowledge.
- Ⓓ Our curriculum is based on a particular moral philosophy or set of values, for example, African-centered education, character-based education, Eastern philosophy.

VC104965

9. Approximately what percentage of eighth-graders in your school

a. is new this year? \_\_\_\_\_ %

VC104967

b. has been attending your school for 1–2 years? \_\_\_\_\_ %

VC104968

c. has been attending your school for 3 or more years? \_\_\_\_\_ %

VC104969

**100%**

VC104970

10. Among eighth-grade students who are new to your school this year, approximately what percentage performs **at or above average** on your state assessment?

Percent



11. Does your school participate in the National School Lunch Program?

- Ⓐ Yes → *Skip to Question 13*
- Ⓑ No → *Go to Question 12*

12. Why does your school **not** participate in the National School Lunch Program?

- Ⓐ My school has eligible students but chooses not to participate in the program.
- Ⓑ My school does not have students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.
- Ⓒ My school does not have a cafeteria or does not serve lunch.
- Ⓓ Other

13. What is the legal status of your school?

- Ⓐ Officially part of the school district or local education agency (LEA)
- Ⓑ Independent from the school district or local education agency (LEA)
- Ⓒ A separate local education agency (LEA) as stipulated by state law

14. Who has **primary control or authority** over the following aspects of your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Your school	Management company	District/ charter- granting agency	Governing board/ board of trustees	Other	
a. Total budget	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC104825
b. Purchase of supplies and equipment	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC104832
c. School calendar	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC104838
d. Student discipline policies (e.g., suspension/ expulsion)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC104842
e. Curriculum	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC104844
f. Personnel, including hiring of teaching staff	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VC104846



15. In which of the following areas is your school monitored/audited by the state or your school's charter-granting agency?

	<b>Yes, by state</b>	<b>Yes, by charter-granting agency</b>	<b>Not monitored</b>	
a. Curriculum topics taught	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104866
b. Teaching methods used	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104871
c. Student achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104880
d. Student behavior	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104886
e. Student attendance	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104895
f. School governance	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104898
g. School finances	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104900
h. Compliance with state or federal regulations	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104901
i. Special education services	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC104903

16. Are you **required** to report directly to any of the following groups on your school's progress? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VC104905

- |   | <b>Yes</b>              | <b>No</b>               |          |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. Chartering agency  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104943 |
| b. Parents  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104944 |
| c. Community/general public   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104945 |
| d. School governing board   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104946 |
| e. Private funders or donors  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104947 |
| f. State Board of Education   | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104948 |
| g. State department of education (if this is not the chartering agency) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104949 |
| h. Legislature  | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | VC104950 |



17. Have you surveyed or interviewed the parents of the students in your school to find out why they chose to send their children to your school?

- Ⓐ Yes → *Go to Question 18*
- Ⓑ No → *You are finished.*

18. About how many parents indicate that they chose to send their children to your school for the following reasons? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	<b>Less than half</b>	<b>About half</b>	<b>About three- quarters</b>	<b>All or almost all</b>	
a. Their child was performing poorly in another school	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104954
b. They wanted a more rigorous curriculum for their child	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104957
c. They wanted the particular curricular focus this school has	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104958
d. They wanted a safer environment for their child	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104960
e. They were seeking greater parental involvement in their child's education	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104961
f. They wanted smaller class sizes	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104962
g. Other reason	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC104963