



# English Language Learners Background Questionnaire

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2007



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Dear Principal or Administrator:

Thank you for allowing your school to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). These assessments are vital to measuring the academic skills and progress of the students in our nation and in each state.

As you know, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that all students with disabilities participate in state and district wide assessment programs through regular assessments, including with appropriate accommodations when necessary, or alternate assessments. The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) likewise requires the participation of students with disabilities in the student academic assessments required under that Act, and also requires that English language learners, as well as other groups of students, participate in those state assessments. NCLB allows for reasonable accommodations on assessments administered to English language learners. Although federal law does not explicitly specify similar requirements regarding the participation of students with disabilities and English language learners in NAEP, the NAEP program has been working very hard to make its sample of students taking the assessments as representative as possible of all students. We are asking you to ensure that the greatest possible number of students with disabilities and English language learners in your school, who are selected to participate, do in fact take the assessments.

Please keep in mind that NAEP does not produce results for individual students or schools, as your state or district tests might. All results are summarized only at the national and state levels (and for a few large urban districts). In other words, the NAEP assessments do not impose consequences for the student or the school, and are instead intended purely to provide a picture of educational performance and progress.

We want to include as many students as possible in the picture NAEP provides for us. For this reason, we ask you to do all you can to help ensure the participation of students who are selected for NAEP whenever possible, including students with disabilities and English language learners. Students taking the NAEP are able to use most of the testing accommodations they usually receive in other tests (e.g., extended time, small group testing). Most students with disabilities and English language learners are indeed able to participate in NAEP with their fellow students.

NAEP is one of the most visible and important indicators of educational performance in this country, and we very much appreciate your support in making NAEP as inclusive as possible.

Kathleen Leos  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Office of English Language Acquisition

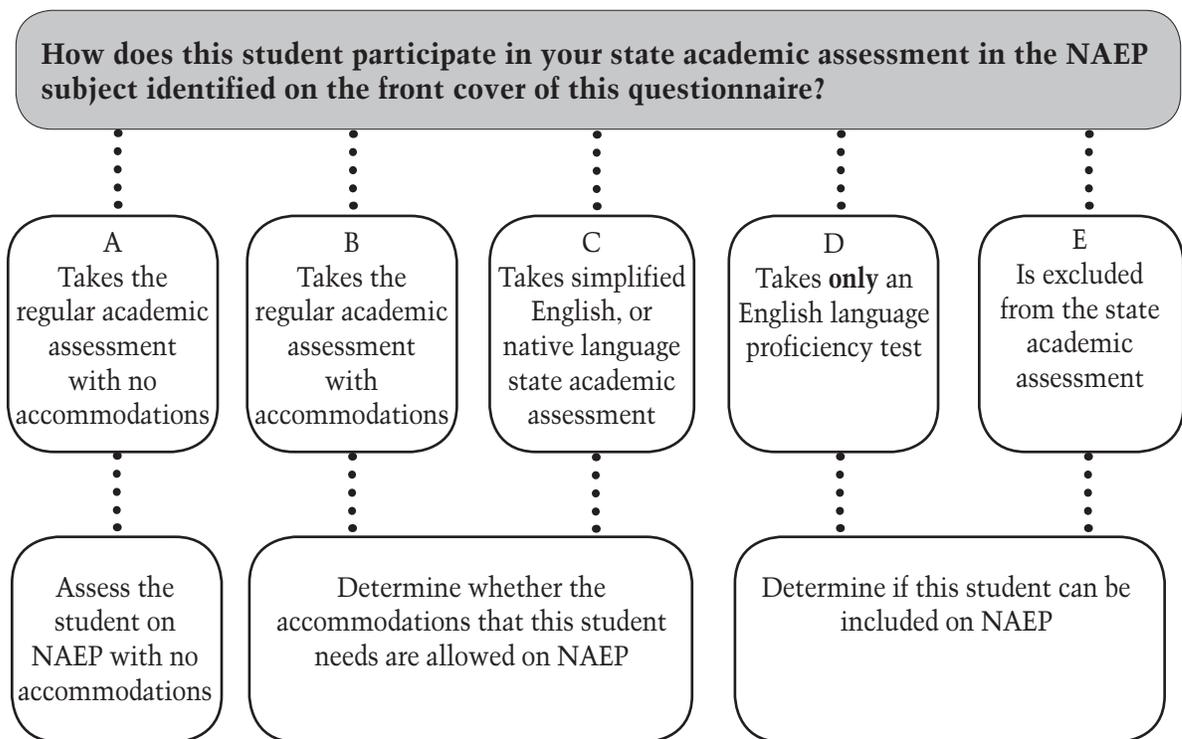
Alexa Posny  
Director  
Office of Special Education Programs

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

The student named on the front cover of this questionnaire has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and has been identified as an English Language Learner (ELL).

The decision tree below illustrates the steps in determining how best to include this student in NAEP. By answering the questions in this questionnaire, you will provide the information needed to make this determination.

### ELL DECISION TREE



Please answer the questions on pages 4–7 about this student and return the completed questionnaire to the person in your school who is coordinating NAEP activities.

**Thank you very much for your help!**

1. What is this student's first or native language?

Ⓐ Spanish

Ⓑ Other language (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2 asks about the subject identified on the front cover of this questionnaire** because this student has been selected for the assessment of the subject. If the subject is reading or mathematics, refer to the state assessment used for reporting adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind. If this student does not take a state test in this subject, refer to local testing or instructional practice.

2. How does this student participate in your state academic assessment in the NAEP subject identified **on the front cover** of this questionnaire? (Fill in **one** oval.)

Ⓐ This student takes the regular academic assessment **with no accommodations**. → *Skip to page 7 and answer questions 7–9.*

Ⓑ This student takes the regular academic assessment **with accommodations**. → *Go to pages 5, 6, and 7 and answer questions 3–9.*

Ⓒ This student **takes simplified English or native language** state academic assessment. → *Go to pages 5, 6, and 7 and answer questions 3–9.*

Ⓓ This student takes only an **English language proficiency test**. → *Skip to page 6 and answer question 6. Then complete page 7.*

Ⓔ This student is **excluded** from the state academic assessment. → *Skip to page 6 and answer question 6. Then complete page 7.*

3. Which accommodations does this student receive on the state assessment of the NAEP subject identified **on the front cover** of this questionnaire?

Fill in the oval in Column A for each accommodation that this student receives for your state’s assessment in the NAEP subject indicated on the front cover of this questionnaire. If this student does not take a state assessment in the NAEP subject, please indicate the accommodations this student receives for local testing or instruction.

This Student	COLUMN A Accommodations student receives on state assessment in NAEP subject	COLUMN B Are these accommodations allowed on NAEP?			COLUMN C If allowed on NAEP, who provides accommodation?
		Reading	Math	Writing	
<b>Direct Linguistic Support</b>					
Has directions read aloud/repeated in English or receives assistance to understand directions	<input type="radio"/>	Standard NAEP Practice			NAEP provides
Has directions <b>only</b> read aloud in native language	<input type="radio"/>	N	Y*	N	†Spanish/English Only
Has test materials read aloud in native language	<input type="radio"/>	N	Y*	N	†Spanish/English Only
Uses a bilingual version of the booklet	<input type="radio"/>	N	Y	N	NAEP provides (Spanish/English Only)
Uses a bilingual word-for-word dictionary without definitions	<input type="radio"/>	N	Y	Y	School provides
Has <b>occasional</b> words or phrases read aloud in English	<input type="radio"/>	N	Y	Y	NAEP provides
Has <b>all or most</b> of the test materials read aloud in English	<input type="radio"/>	N	Y	Y	NAEP provides
Has oral or written responses in native language translated into written English	<input type="radio"/>	N	N	N	NA
<b>Indirect Linguistic Support</b>					
Takes the test in a small group (5 or fewer)	<input type="radio"/>	Y	Y	Y	NAEP provides**
Takes the test one-on-one	<input type="radio"/>	Y	Y	Y	NAEP provides**
Receives preferential seating	<input type="radio"/>	Y	Y	Y	School provides
Has test administered by familiar person	<input type="radio"/>	Y	Y	Y	School provides
Receives extended time	<input type="radio"/>	Y	Y	Y	NAEP provides
Is given breaks during the test	<input type="radio"/>	Y	Y	Y	NAEP provides
Takes test session over several days	<input type="radio"/>	N	N	N	NA
Receives other accommodations	<input type="radio"/>				

NA = Not applicable

\* Spanish only and only permissible when a Spanish/English bilingual booklet is used.

\*\* NAEP provides staff to conduct small group or one-on-one sessions after regular sessions.

† NAEP provides written directions in the bilingual booklets for students to read. Instructions in Spanish are provided for a bilingual, school-provided interpreter to read aloud to the student, if required.

Answer Question 4 and, if necessary, Question 5 using the information in Columns A and B on page 5.

VC195245

4. Are all of the accommodations this student receives on the state assessment as recorded in Column A allowed on NAEP (Column B)? (Fill in **one** oval.)

- Ⓐ Yes. This student should be assessed with these accommodations, as allowed on NAEP. → *Skip to page 7.*
- Ⓑ No. → *Answer question 5 below.*

VC195258

5. Can this student be assessed with only the accommodations allowed on NAEP? (Fill in **one** oval.)

- Ⓐ Yes. This student should be assessed with only the accommodations allowed on NAEP. → *Skip to page 7.*
- Ⓑ No. This student should not be assessed on NAEP. → *Skip to page 7.*

VC195353

6. If this student is assessed with only an English language proficiency test, or is excluded from the state assessment, could the student participate in NAEP with any of the accommodations allowed on NAEP as listed in Column B on page 5? (Fill in **one** oval.)

- Ⓐ Yes. List the accommodations allowed on NAEP and include the student in NAEP.

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→ *Go to page 7 and answer questions 7, 8, and 9.*

- Ⓑ No. This student should not be assessed on NAEP.  
→ *Go to page 7 and answer questions 7, 8, and 9.*

7. Including the current school year, how long has this student been receiving academic instruction primarily **in English**?

- A This student does not receive academic instruction primarily in English.
- B Less than 1 year
- C 1 to 2 years
- D 2 to 3 years
- E 3 years or more
- F I don't know.

8. What grade level of instruction is this student currently receiving in the subject indicated on the front cover?

- A This student is currently not receiving instruction in this subject.
- B At or above grade level
- C One year below grade level
- D Two or more years below grade level
- E I don't know.

9. How would you characterize this student's English proficiency? (Fill in **one** oval in each row.)

	ELL advanced	ELL intermediate	ELL beginning	No proficiency	I don't know.	
a. Listening comprehension in English	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VC188374
b. Speaking English	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VC188375
c. Reading English	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VC188385
d. Writing English	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VC188388