

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

## Reading/Mathematics/Science School Background Questionnaire

## Grade 8

2009

## 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.


## Part I: School Characteristics and Policies


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, 2009.

First group:

hours of instruction as of February 1, 2009

Second group: $\square$ hours of instruction as of February 1, 2009

Third group: $\square$ hours of instruction as of February 1, 2009
5. What is the current enrollment in your school?

6. Approximately what percentage of eighth-graders in your school . . . (Please be sure your answers sum to $100 \%$.)
a. is new this year?

b. has been attending your school for 1-2 years?

7. 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) $26-50 \%$
© $51-75 \%$
(6) 76-90\%
(1) Over 90\%
8. Is your school a public charter school?
(A charter school is a public school that, in accordance with an enabling state statute, has been granted a charter exempting it from selected state or local rules and regulations. A charter school may be a newly created school or it may previously have been a public or private school.)
(A) Yes
(B) No

VC311012
9. What other type of school is this? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Yes | No |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Regular elementary school | (A) | (B) | vC311014 |
| b. A regular school with a magnet program | (A) | (B) | vC311015 |
| c. 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. | (4) | (B) | vC311016 |
| d. Special education: a school that primarily serves students with disabilities | (4) | (B) | vC311017 |
| e. Alternative: a school that offers a curriculum designed to provide alternative or nontraditional education, not clearly categorized as regular, special education, or vocational | (4) | (B) | vC311018 |
| f. Private (independent) | (4) | (B) | vC311020 |
| g. Private (religiously affiliated) | (4) | (B) | vC311021 |
| h. Privately run public school | (4) | (B) | vC311022 |
| i. Other | (4) | (B) | vC311024 |

HE000917
10. About what percentage of your students is absent on an average day? (Include excused and unexcused absences in calculating this rate.)
(A) $0-2 \%$
(B) $3-5 \%$
(c) 6-10\%
(D) More than $10 \%$
11. About what percentage of your teachers is absent on an average day? (Include all absences in calculating this rate.)
(A) $0-2 \%$
(B) $3-5 \%$
© $6-10 \%$
(D) More than $10 \%$

HE000918
12. 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.)
(4) 98-100\%
(B) 95-97\%
© 90-94\%
(D) 80-89\%
(E) 70-79\%
(®) 60-69\%
(c) $50-59 \%$
$\oplus(\operatorname{Less}$ than $50 \%$

HE002230
13. About what percentage of this year's eighth graders was held back and is repeating eighth grade?
(A) $0 \%$
(B) 1-2\%
© $3-5 \%$
(D) $6-10 \%$
(E) More than $10 \%$
14. Of the full-time teachers who started in your school last year, what percentage left before the end of the school year?
(A) $0 \%$
(B) $1-2 \%$
© $3-5 \%$
(1) 6-10\%
(E) 11-15\%
(E) $16-20 \%$
(c) More than $20 \%$
15. Does your school participate in the National School Lunch Program?
(A) Yes $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 16.
(B) $\mathrm{No} \rightarrow$ Skip to Question 19.
16. How does the school operate the program?
(A) Student eligibility is determined individually, and eligible students receive free or reduced-price lunch. $\rightarrow$ Skip to Question 18.
(B) All students in school receive free lunch under special provisions (e.g., Provision 2 or 3). $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 17.
17. 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?
(A) This school does not distribute free lunch to all students under Provision 2 or 3eligibility is determined annually.
(B) 2008
© 2007
(D) 2006
(E) 2005
(ㄷ) 2004
(c) 2003 or earlier
18. 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?
(A) 0\%
(B) 1-5\%
© 6-10\%
(D) 11-25\%
(E) 26-34\%
$35-50 \%$
(c) $51-75 \%$
© -76 - $99 \%$
(1) 100\%
19. 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.
© Yes, our school receives funds, which are used for schoolwide purposes.
20. 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\% | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Over } \\ & \mathbf{9 0 \%} \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Targeted Title I services | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | © | © | © | $\oplus$ | vB6101 |
| b. Gifted and talented program | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | © | © | © | $\oplus$ | vB485286 |
| c. Instruction provided in student's home language (non-English) | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | © | © | $\oplus$ | vB48 |
| d. English-as-a-secondlanguage (not in a bilingual education program) | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | © | © | © | $\oplus$ | v348 |

e. Special education
(A) (B) C
(D) © ®
(a) $\oplus{ }^{\text {VB485289 }}$

## Part II: English/Language Arts

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 | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VB380371 |
| b. Interpreting and analyzing literature | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VB380372 |
| c. Understanding the process of reading or writing | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VB380373 |
| d. Instructional strategies for teaching language arts | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VB380374 |

2. Is there an English/language arts specialist or coach available (full- or part-time) to eighth-graders at your school?
(A) Yes, available full-time to my school $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 3.
(B) Yes, available part-time to my school $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 3.

No $\rightarrow$ Skip to Question 4.
3. To what extent are any of the following a responsibility of the English/language arts specialist or coach available to eighth-graders at your school? Fill in one oval on each line.
Not Small Moderate Large at all extent extent extent
a. Provide technical assistance/support to individual teachers about English/ language arts content or the teaching of English/language arts
b. Conduct professional development for groups of teachers about English/ language arts content or the teaching of English/language arts
c. Provide English/language arts instruction to students on various topics
d. Provide English/language arts instruction to students at various grade levels
e. Provide English/language arts
(A)
(B)
(A)
(B)
(A)
(B)
(A)
(B)
(4) enrichment to some student groups

VC191175
4. To what extent is your school's English/language arts program structured according to the following resources? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large Extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. State curriculum standards or frameworks | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191181 |
| b. District curriculum standards or curriculum guides | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191182 |
| c. Results from state/district assessments | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191185 |
| d. In-school curriculum frameworks and standards for learning | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191187 |
| e. Results from school assessments | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191188 |
| f. Recommendations from school reading/language arts department | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191191 |
| g. Discretion of individual teachers | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191194 |
| h. Commercially designed programs | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VC191195 |

5. To what extent does your school's eighth-grade English/language arts curriculum focus on preparation for the following types of assessments? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Federally mandated assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vC311764 |
| b. State assessments | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vc3117 |
| c. District assessments | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC31 |
| d. School assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vC3117\% |

6. Does your school have the following personnel to assist with English/language arts class instruction for eighth-grade students with disabilities (SD) and/or English language learners (ELL)? Fill in one oval for SD and one oval for ELL on each line.

|  | SD |  | ELL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Yes | No | Yes | No |  |
| a. Special Education teachers (and related service providers) | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013875 |
| b. Reading specialists or coaches | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013876 |
| c. Speech pathologists | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013877 |
| d. Certified ELL/bilingual education teachers | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013878 |
| e. Other staff not trained in SD or ELL | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013880 |
| f. Parent volunteers | (A) | (B) | (c) | (1) | vE013881 |
| g. Paraprofessionals or teacher aids who are trained in SD or ELL | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013882 |
| h. Paraprofessionals or teacher aids who are not trained in SD or ELL | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013 |

## Part III: Mathematics

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.
(A) None
(B) 1 to 5 percent
© 6 to 10 percent
(D) 11 to 20 percent
(E) More than 20 percent
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?
(A) None
(B) 1 to 5 percent
© 6 to 10 percent
(D) 11 to 20 percent
(E) More than 20 percent
3. What percentage of eighth-grade students in your school is enrolled in the following mathematics classes? Fill in one oval on each line.

| a. Eighth-grade mathematics (not algebra or pre-algebra) | None <br> (A) | $\begin{gathered} 1-10 \% \\ \text { (B) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11-25 \% \\ \odot \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 26-50\% } \\ \text { (D) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 51-75 \% \\ \oplus \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 76-90 \% \\ \oplus \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 91-100\% } \\ & \text { © } \end{aligned}$ | VB525186 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| b. Introduction to algebra or pre-algebra | (4) | (B) | © | (D) | (E) | © | (6) | VB525187 |
| c. Two-year Pre-Algebra | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | © | (6) | vE013703 |
| d. Algebra I (one-year course) | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | ( ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | (6) | VB525188 |
| e. Algebra I (first year of two-year course) | (4) | (B) | © | (D) | (E) | ( ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | (6) | VB5251 |
| f. Algebra I (second year of two-year course) | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | ( ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | (6) | VB517155 |
| g. Geometry | (4) | (B) | (c) | (1) | © | © | ( | VB5251 |
| h. Algebra II | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | © | (6) | VB525191 |
| i. Integrated or sequential mathematics | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | (¢) | ( ) | VB525 |

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

VE013886
5. Is there a mathematics specialist or coach available (full- or part-time) to eighth-graders at your school?
(A) Yes, available full-time to my school $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 6.
(B) Yes, available part-time to my school $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 6.
© No $\rightarrow$ Skip to Question 7.
6. To what extent are any of the following a responsibility of the mathematics specialist or coach available to eighth-graders at your school? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Provide technical assistance/ support to individual teachers about mathematics content or the teaching of mathematics | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013890 |
| b. Conduct professional development for groups of teachers about mathematics content or the teaching of mathematics | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013891 |
| c. Provide mathematics instruction to students on various topics | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013894 |
| d. Provide mathematics instruction to students at various grade levels | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013895 |
| e. Provide mathematics remediation/ intervention to some student groups | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013896 |
| f. Provide mathematics enrichment to some student groups | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013897 |

7. Are eighth-grade students typically assigned to mathematics classes by ability and/or achievement levels (so that some instruction groups are higher in average mathematics ability and/or achievement levels than others)?
(A) Yes
(B) No
8. Please estimate the percentage of students that is transferred to a higher ability/ achievement-based placement in mathematics between eighth and ninth grade.
(A) Less than 1 percent
(B) 1 to 5 percent
© 6 to 10 percent
(D) 11 to 25 percent
(E) More than 25 percent
© Students are not grouped by ability.
9. Please estimate the percentage of students that is transferred to a lower ability/ achievement-based placement in mathematics between eighth and ninth grade.
(A) Less than 1 percent
(B) 1 to 5 percent
© 6 to 10 percent
(D) 11 to 25 percent
(E) More than 25 percent
© Students are not grouped by ability.
10. To what extent is your school's mathematics program structured according to the following resources? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. State curriculum standards or frameworks | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | 1204 |
| b. District curriculum standards or curriculum guides | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vc3 |
| c. Results from state/district assessments | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC311210 |
| d. In-school curriculum frameworks and standards for learning | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VC31211 |
| e. Results from school assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | VC311212 |
| f. Recommendations from school mathematics department | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC311 |
| g. Discretion of individual teachers | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | C31 |
| h. Commercially designed programs | (4) | (B) | © | (1) | 311215 |

VC311851
11. To what extent does your school's eighth-grade mathematics curriculum focus on preparation for the following types of assessments? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not <br> at all | Small <br> extent | Moderate <br> extent | Large <br> extent |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Federally-mandated assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (D) | vC311853 |
| b. State assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (D) | vC311854 |
| c. District assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (D) | vC311855 |
| d. School assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (D) | vC311857 |

12. Approximately what percentage of your school's classrooms has the following technological resources for eighth-grade mathematics instruction? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | 0\% | 1-25\% | 26-50\% | 51-75\% | 76-99\% | 100\% |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Cable/satellite/ closed-circuit television | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | © | ¢ | vE013908 |
| b. Videodisc player/ VCR/DVD player | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | (丅) | vE013909 |
| c. Digital/video camera | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | $\oplus$ | vE013910 |
| d. Videoconferencing equipment | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | © | ( ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | VE013914 |
| e. Scanner for images or text | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | (®) | © | vE013916 |
| f. Projection device for projecting images directly from a computer | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | $\oplus$ | vE013917 |
| g. Computer | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | © | $\oplus$ | vE013919 |
| h. Internet | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | © | $\oplus$ | vE013922 |
| i. Computer printer | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | (c) | $\oplus$ | vE013923 |
| j. Handheld devices (e.g., personal digital assistants such as Palm Pilots or Pocket PCs) | (A) | (B) | © | (1) | (E) | ( ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | vE013925 |

## Part IV: Science

1. Is there a science specialist or coach available (full- or part-time) to eighth-graders at your school?
(A) Yes, available full-time to my school $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 2.
(B) Yes, available part-time to my school $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 2.
© No $\rightarrow$ Skip to Question 3.

VE013966
2. To what extent are any of the following a responsibility of the science specialist or coach available to eighth-graders at your school? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Provide technical assistance/support to individual teachers about science content or the teaching of science | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013967 |
| b. Conduct professional development for groups of teachers about science content or the teaching of science | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013968 |
| c. Provide science instruction to students on various topics | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013969 |
| d. Provide science instruction to students at various grade levels | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013970 |
| e. Provide science enrichment to some student groups | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE013971 |

3. To what extent is your school's science program structured according to the following resources? Fill in one oval on each line.
a. State curriculum standards or frameworks
b. District curriculum standards or curriculum guides
c. Results from state/district assessments
d. In-school curriculum frameworks and standards for learning
e. Results from school assessments
f. Recommendations from school science department
g. Discretion of individual teachers
h. Commercially designed programs

| Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC304220 |
| (A) | (B) | © | (1) | vC304221 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VC304222 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC30423 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC304224 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vC30422 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (D) | VC304226 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (D) | VC304227 |

4. To what extent does your school's eighth-grade science curricula focus on preparation for the following types of assessments? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not <br> at all | Small <br> extent | Moderate <br> extent | Large <br> extent |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. State assessments | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | vC304508 |
| b. District assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (D) | vC304510 |
| c. School assessments | (A) | (B) | © | (D) | vc304511 |

5. Does your school have laboratory facilities for eighth-grade science instruction?
(A) Yes $\rightarrow$ Go to Question 6.
(B) No $\rightarrow$ Skip to Question 7.
6. To what extent do your school's science laboratories that are available for eighth-grade instruction have the following features? Fill in one oval on each line.
a. Demonstration stations
b. Student lab stations
c. Storage areas for chemicals and other supplies
d. Electricity
e. Running water
f. Gas for burners
g. Hoods or air hoses
h. Safety equipment
i. Computers
j. Internet connection

| Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VE013983 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013984 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VE013985 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VE013986 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013990 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013991 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013992 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | vE013993 |
| (A) | (B) | © | (1) | VE013995 |
| (4) | (B) | © | (1) | VE013996 |

7. To what extent are any of the following available to eighth-grade teachers who teach science? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | Not at all | Small extent | Moderate extent | Large extent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Science textbooks | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014002 |
| b. Science magazines and books | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014003 |
| c. Supplies or equipment for science demonstrations | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014005 |
| d. Supplies or equipment for science labs | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014006 |
| e. Student access to computers in class for science instruction | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014008 |
| f. Student access to computer labs for science instruction | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014010 |
| g. Teacher access to computers for science instruction | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014011 |
| h. Computerized science labs for classroom use | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014012 |
| i. Audiovisual materials for science instruction | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014014 |
| j. Science kits | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014015 |
| k. Scientific measurement instruments (e.g., telescopes, microscopes, thermometers, or weighing scales) | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | VE014016 |

8. Approximately what percentage of your school's classrooms has the following technological resources for eighth-grade science instruction? Fill in one oval on each line.

|  | 0\% | 1-25\% | 26-50\% | 51-75\% | 76-99\% | 100\% |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| j. Digital camera | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | ( $)$ | © | VE014033 |
| k. Graphing calculator | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | (E) | (F) | VE014041 |
| 1. Handheld device (pocket-sized computing device, such as personal digital assistant or smartphone) | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | (E) | (F) | VE014042 |
| m. Data collection sensors/probes (tool that connects to a handheld device or graphing calculator and detects motion, pH , temperature, light) | (A) | (B) | (c) | (D) | (E) | ( | VE014043 |

n. Online course management
system (web-
based software used to organize information, assignments, grades, and discussions)
o. Digital
(A)
(B)
©
(1)
©
$\oplus$
VE014046 whiteboard (computerized display panels that can respond to fingertip command and creates a shared interactive space, akin to traditional chalkboards)

