



# Facts for Elementary and Middle School Teachers



## NAEP plays a significant role in American education.

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative assessment of what American students know and can do.
- NAEP is part of the U.S. Department of Education and is mandated by Congress.
- For more than 40 years, NAEP has been measuring student progress in subjects such as the arts, civics, mathematics, reading, science, U.S. history, and writing.
- Educational experts from around the country, including teachers like yourself, are involved in the development of the assessments.

## What is your role in NAEP?

- Students look to teachers for guidance and support. You can explain to your students the value and purpose of the assessment. You can also tell your students about the important contribution that they make in taking NAEP.

“NAEP is great for comparing student performance from state to state. If I see that students in another state are doing much better than my state’s, I wonder why. Is there something they’re doing that we could try? Could we be doing something better?”

ANNIE MORELLI, TEACHER, POWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in America.

As a teacher, you recognize how essential a quality education is for all students. NAEP results—or **The Nation’s Report Card**—help the public learn how well our schools are doing.

You play a vital role in this effort. By encouraging your students to do their best, you help ensure that NAEP results really reflect what students know and can do. When students participate and try their best, we get an accurate and valuable portrait of student progress across America.

The schools and students who participate in the test represent schools and students throughout the country. Schools are selected on the basis of their demographics, and students are randomly selected to participate within those schools. Each student’s participation represents hundreds of students in the nation.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

## It's important to know that...

### No advance preparation is necessary.

- The assessment includes questions on subjects that students encounter everyday; these questions include both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions.
- In addition to the test questions, students answer questions on their background, like the amount of reading that they do at home.

### NAEP takes approximately 90 minutes to complete.

- NAEP is conducted during regular school hours at your school.
- You can review sample materials ahead of time.
- Trained field staff, employed by U.S. Department of Education contractors, administer NAEP.

### All assessment materials are provided.

- The test administrators will give students everything that they need—from the pencils to the assessment booklets.
- Your NAEP State Coordinator will work with a representative from your school to ensure that the assessment is conducted in an efficient manner.

### NAEP is different than state assessments.

- While all states have their own unique assessments, NAEP asks the same questions in every state—making state comparisons possible.
- NAEP data can be used to understand the performance of different student groups and show areas in need of improvement within each subject.

### NAEP is confidential.

- NAEP does not report the performance of individual students or schools.
- The assessment does not include personally identifying information.

### You can see the results.

- View the results of The Nation's Report Card at <http://nationsreportcard.gov> or call 1-877-4ED-PUBS to order copies of the report.

### How can you use NAEP in the classroom?

After each assessment, NAEP questions are released to the general public. Over 2,000 of these questions are available online. You can use the NAEP Questions Tool to create your own test and see how students answered on the assessment. You can also search for specific questions, as well as print scoring guides and see sample student responses.

To access the NAEP Questions Tool, visit [nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls).

For the following question, students read a story about a young girl who asks her teacher for help in rescuing ducks that were affected by an oil spill in a creek.

Below is an acceptable student response.

Why is the gym teacher important in the story? Use examples of what he says or does in your answer.

The gym teacher is important because he gets every body to help the ducks.