

National Assessment of Educational Progress

An Overview of NAEP



What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative assessment of what America's students know and can do. NAEP was developed in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in America.

What subjects does NAEP cover?

NAEP has two types of assessments, main NAEP and long-term trend NAEP.

Main NAEP assessments are conducted in a range of subjects with fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-graders across the country. Assessments are given most frequently in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. Other subjects, such as the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history, are assessed periodically.

Long-term trend NAEP measures student performance in mathematics and reading, using some previously administered questions to ensure comparability across the years. The long-term trend assessment allows the performance of today's students to be compared with those from more than 30 years ago. The assessment is administered to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds every four years.

How is NAEP content developed?

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), located within the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, administers the assessment. NCES is also responsible for developing the test questions, assessing the students, scoring, conducting analyses, and reporting the results.

Each NAEP assessment is built from a content framework that serves as a blueprint, specifying what should be assessed. The National Assessment Governing Board, which sets NAEP policy, also develops the frameworks for the assessment. The frameworks reflect the knowledge and experience of subject-area experts, school administrators, policymakers, teachers, parents, and others. The Governing Board also determines the schedule of assessments.

How is NAEP different from other assessments?

NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. While each state has its own unique assessment designed to reflect its state content standards, NAEP administers the same assessment in every state. This allows each state and participating urban district to be compared to national results and to evaluate its progress over time. Samples of students in all states take NAEP and are measured in the same way, providing a common measure of achievement across states. NAEP reports information on student performance for the nation, states, and selected large urban districts in a variety of subject areas. NAEP also presents results for different student groups including data by gender, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity. There are no results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

Why is student participation valuable?

The participation of all selected students enables NAEP to provide the most accurate picture of student performance. NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling procedure to ensure that the results of the assessment are representative of students in the United States. Each participating student represents hundreds of other similar students. These students characterize the geographic, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity that is America's student body.

What happens when students take NAEP?

- NAEP is administered to students during regular school hours.
- Students are provided with all materials at the time the assessment is taken.
- Each student only takes a portion of the entire assessment.
- Students spend about 90 minutes taking the assessment, including answering a section on contextual information such as the amount of reading they do and what types of classes they take.
- Test accommodations are provided for students with disabilities and/or English language learners.

How are the results of NAEP reported?

The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card. The report cards provide national, state, and selected urban district results. Also included are trends for different student groups, results as scale scores and achievement levels, and sample questions. Full copies of all NAEP reports are available at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

To order copies of The Nation's Report Card or other NAEP publications, contact ED Pubs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

What online resources are available?

- The NAEP website provides more extensive information: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>
- The NAEP Data Explorer provides access to both performance and background data: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata>
- The State Comparisons Tool allows for sorting and comparing state results: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/statecomp>
- Answers to frequently asked questions are provided for parents of students who have been selected to participate in NAEP: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents>
- The Governing Board's website provides information on NAEP frameworks, the assessment schedule, and NAEP law: <http://www.nagb.org>



NAEP results are used by policymakers, state and local educators, principals, teachers, and parents to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in America.

NAEP Assessment Schedule

To download a pdf version of the assessment schedule, please visit
<http://www.nagb.org/newsroom/assessment-schedule.htm>

YEAR	NATIONAL	STATE
2005	Reading, MATHEMATICS , Science, High School Transcript Study	Reading (4, 8), MATHEMATICS (4, 8), Science (4, 8)
2006	U.S. History, Civics, ECONOMICS (12)	
2007	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), Writing (8, 12)	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), Writing (8)
2008	Arts (8), Long-Term Trend	
2009	READING , Mathematics,* SCIENCE , High School Transcript Study	READING (4, 8, 12), Mathematics (4, 8, 12), SCIENCE (4, 8)
2010	U.S. History, Civics, Geography	
2011	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), WRITING	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), WRITING (4)
2012	Economics (12), PROBE : Technological Literacy (special study), Long-Term Trend	
2013	Reading, Mathematics, Science, High School Transcript Study	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), Science (4, 8)
2014	U.S. HISTORY, CIVICS , Geography	
2015	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), Writing	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), Writing (4, 8)
2016	Arts (8), Long-Term Trend	
2017	Reading, Mathematics, Science, High School Transcript Study	Reading (4, 8), Mathematics (4, 8), Science (4, 8)

* New framework for grade 12 only.

NOTES:

- (1) Grades tested are 4, 8, and 12 unless otherwise indicated, except that long-term trend assessments sample students at ages 9, 13, and 17 and are conducted in reading and mathematics.
- (2) Subjects in **BOLD ALL CAPS** indicate the year in which a new framework is implemented or assessment year for which the Board will decide whether a new or updated framework is needed.
- (3) In 2009, 12th grade assessments in reading and mathematics at the state level will be conducted as a pilot in 11 volunteering states.
- (4) The Governing Board intends to include 12th grade World History and Foreign Language assessments during the 2018-2022 period.

4th Grade Mathematics

There are 6 cubes of the same size in a jar.

2 cubes are yellow.

3 cubes are red.

1 cube is blue.

Chuck is going to pick one cube without looking. Which color is he most likely to pick?

red

What is the probability of this color being picked?

3 out of 6

In order for the public to be familiar with the types of questions in NAEP assessments, questions are made available to the public and not used again in NAEP. The following are examples of NAEP questions and the correct responses:

8th Grade Science

A human CANNOT survive the loss of which of the following?

- A The appendix
- B The liver
- C A lung
- D A kidney

12th Grade Reading

For the following question, students read a guide that explained a subway system's fares and passes. The response below shows evidence of full comprehension.

What is the guide to Metro's Fares and Passes supposed to help you do?

The guide is supposed to help you decide which type of pass or ticket would be best for you based on how often you ride, how long, or if you are handicapped.

The NAEP Questions Tool provides access to more than 2,000 questions from NAEP assessments in nearly all subjects:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>

