



School Background Questionnaire

2000
Grade 8

During the 1999-2000 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 mathematics and science. 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. The information that you provide is being collected for research purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.

NAEP is authorized under Public Law 103-382. While your participation is voluntary, your responses to these questions are needed to make this survey accurate and complete.

Please answer directly on the questionnaire by filling in the appropriate ovals or boxes, as directed.

When you are finished, please return the questionnaire to your school's NAEP coordinator.

Thank you very much for your help.



School Characteristics and Policies Questionnaire

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:

QK070740

1. 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 _____

QK0700563

2. If this school uses block scheduling for most core courses, indicate which general type of block scheduling is used.

- Ⓐ This school does not use block scheduling.
- Ⓑ Each core course is taught throughout the school year, but on only about half the days.
- Ⓒ Each core course is taught for half the year, on all five days.
- Ⓓ Each core course is taught in quarters, on all five days.
- Ⓔ This school uses a type of block scheduling that does not fit into the broad categories above.



3. Our school year has days.

QK070440

4. Which of the following best describes how the eighth grades in your school are organized for instruction? Fill in **one** oval.

HE000926

- Ⓐ Self-contained. Students stay with the same teacher for all academic subjects.
- Ⓑ Semi-departmentalized. Students are taught by different teachers in some of their subjects.
- Ⓒ Departmentalized. Students have different teachers for most or all academic subjects.

5. Are eighth-grade students typically assigned to classes by ability and/or achievement levels (so that some classes are higher in average ability and/or achievement levels than others) in any of the following subjects? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

HE000928

- | | Yes | No |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Mathematics | <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ |
| b. Science | <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ |

HE002232

HE002234

6. During each week, how much time does the typical student in grade 8 in your school receive instruction in each of the following subjects? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

QK070564

- | | Less than
1 hour | At least
1 hour but
less than
2 hours | At least
2 hours but
less than
3 hours | 3 hours
or more |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| a. Mathematics | <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓒ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓓ |
| b. Science | <input type="radio"/> Ⓐ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓑ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓒ | <input type="radio"/> Ⓓ |

QK070565

QK070566

HE000935

7. Does your school offer eighth-grade students a course in algebra for high school course placement or credit?

- (A) Yes
- (B) No

HE000862

8. Are computers available to students in your classes in any of the following ways? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Yes | No | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| a. Available all the time in classrooms | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | HE000843 |
| b. Grouped in a separate computer laboratory available to classes | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | HE000864 |
| c. Available to bring to classrooms when needed | <input type="radio"/> (C) | <input type="radio"/> (C) | HE000866 |

QK070741

9. Do eighth graders in your school participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities such as clubs, competitions, fairs, or exhibits in any of the following areas? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

- | | Yes | No | |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| a. Mathematics | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | QK070742 |
| b. Science | <input type="radio"/> (A) | <input type="radio"/> (B) | QK070743 |





10. Does your school do any of the following to involve parents? Fill in **one** oval on each line. HE000874

	Yes, routinely	Yes, occasionally	No	
a. Use parents as aides in classrooms	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	HE000875
b. Have parents review or sign students' homework	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	LC000482
c. Assign homework for students to do with parents	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	LC000484
d. Have a parent volunteer program	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	LC000486
e. Offer special classes or workshops for parents	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	QK070737
f. Have parents as guest teachers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	QK070738

11. In your school, approximately what percentage of the parents do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line. HE002107

	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%	
a. Participate in a parent-teacher organization	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002142
b. Participate in open houses or back-to-school nights	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002108
c. Participate in parent-teacher conferences	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002109
d. Are involved in making school curriculum decisions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002110
e. Participate in volunteer programs	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002111

HE000886

12. To what degree is each of the following a problem in your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Serious	Moderate	Minor	Not a Problem	
a. Student absenteeism	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000888
b. Student tardiness	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000887
c. Physical conflicts among students	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000890
d. Teacher absenteeism	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000892
e. Racial or cultural conflicts	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000893
f. Student health problems	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000894
g. Lack of parent involvement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002121
h. Student use of alcohol	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002122
i. Student use of tobacco	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002123
j. Student use of drugs	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002124
k. Gang activities	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002125
l. Student misbehavior in class	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002126
m. Cheating	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE002127
n. Physical conflicts between students and teachers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID100078
o. Vandalism	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID100080





HE000895

13. How would you characterize each of the following within your school? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	
a. Morale of teachers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000897
b. Students' attitudes toward academic achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000898
c. Parental support for student achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000900
d. Teachers' expectations for student achievement	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	ID100081
e. Regard for school property	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	HE000901

HE000917

14. 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%

LC000488

15. 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%
- C 6-10%
- D More than 10%

HE000918

16. 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%

HE002230

17. 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

18. 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%





19. What is the current enrollment in your school?

HE002092

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20. What is the current enrollment in the eighth grade?

HE002218

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

HE002094

- A Yes
- B No

22. 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?

ID100392

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

ID100393

23. Does your school receive Chapter 1/Title 1 funding? (Chapter 1 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 Yes
- B No

ID100394

24. 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. Chapter 1/Title 1 funding	<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	ID100395
b. Remedial reading instruction	<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	ID100396
c. Remedial writing instruction	<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	ID100397
d. 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	ID100398
e. Bilingual 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	HE002341
f. English-as-a-second language instruction (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	HE002342
g. 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	HE002343

