

Are the data confidential?

Federal law dictates complete privacy for all test-takers and their families. Under the *National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act*, the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is charged with ensuring that NAEP tests do not question test-takers about personal or family beliefs or make information about their personal identity publicly available.

After publishing NAEP reports, NCES makes data available to researchers but withholds students' names and other identifying information. The names of all participating students are not allowed to leave the schools after NAEP assessments are administered.

What Standards are NAEP based on?

The National Assessment Governing Board develops the NAEP frameworks. Information about the Governing Board is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/nagb/>. Frameworks capture a range of subject-specific content and thinking skills needed by students in order to deal with the complex issues they encounter inside and outside their classrooms. The frameworks are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.aspx>.

How are students with disabilities and English language learners included in the NAEP assessments?

The NAEP program has always endeavored to assess all students selected

as a part of its sampling process. In all NAEP schools, accommodations will be provided as necessary for students with disabilities (SD) and/or English language learners (ELL).

Inclusion in NAEP of an SD or ELL student is encouraged if that student (a) participated in the regular state academic assessment in the subject being tested, and (b) if that student can participate in NAEP with the accommodations NAEP allows.

Additional Information

For more information, parents should visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents/>. This page is dedicated to answering questions for parents about the importance of NAEP and how their student will participate if selected for NAEP. In addition to general overview information, there is a Parent FAQ for NAEP at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents/faq.aspx>.



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Information for Families



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What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP assessments have been conducted annually in reading and mathematics, with additional subjects tested each year such as science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, technology and engineering literacy, the arts, and other subjects, beginning in 1969. NAEP collects and reports academic achievement at the national level, and for certain assessments, at the state and district levels.

To see which subjects and grades are tested each year, view the NAEP Schedule of Assessments at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/assessmentsched.aspx>.

Districts and schools are sampled each year for NAEP assessments. The NAEP State Coordinator in Wisconsin notifies districts in May if they have schools selected for NAEP in the following school year. Schools are then usually notified in June of their selection. When students are selected to participate, the school must inform parents about the participation.

How are NAEP test results used?

Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test booklets across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common measure for all states and selected urban districts. The

assessment stays basically the same from year to year. This allows NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time.

All students' results are used to produce state and/or national results (depending on the year and the test).

NAEP produces the Nation's Report Card, available at <http://nationsreportcard.gov/about.aspx>, to inform the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. The results are widely reported by the national and local media, and are an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education.

NAEP results are based on representative samples of students at grades 4, 8, and 12 for the main assessments, or samples of students at ages 9, 13, or 17 years for the long-term trend assessment.

NAEP has linked to the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) to compare how students at the state and national level perform with other countries. More information can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/naep_timss/.

What type of scores will be provided?

NAEP **does not** provide scores for individual students or schools, although NAEP can report results by selected large

urban districts. NAEP does provide the state and national results.

NAEP provides results on subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., all fourth-graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., female students, Hispanic students).

Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

Sample Questions booklets, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.aspx>, are given to participating schools so that administrators and teachers will have an idea of what to expect during an assessment. The booklets contain many of the features of the actual test booklets, including instructions, sample subject-area questions and student responses from previous NAEP assessments, and questions about students' activities and characteristics related to education and the subject being assessed.

The NAEP Questions Tool, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/default.aspx>, provides access to over 3,000 released questions from NAEP assessments in all NAEP subject areas. Examples of students' actual answers to constructed-response questions, with scorer comments, are provided. In addition, the tool provides the percentage of students nationwide who answered each question correctly, and how students' performance on a given question corresponds to their overall scores.