



Grades 4 and 8

NAEP 2007 in Your School

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or The Nation's Report Card, is an essential measurement of student achievement in America.

- NAEP is a congressionally mandated project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education.
- It's the only *nationally representative assessment* of what America's students know and can do in core subjects like reading, mathematics, writing and science.
- The schools and students that participate in the test represent other schools and students in their state and across the country.
- NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its impeccable technical quality. The assessment frameworks are developed with input from assessment specialists, education experts, teachers and content specialists from around the nation.
- NAEP reports on student achievement nationally and in some subjects state-by-state and by district, and monitors student progress over time.

NAEP will be administered in your school between January 22 and March 2, 2007 to a sample of fourth- or eighth-grade students. Students in both grades will be assessed in reading and mathematics. Under No Child Left Behind, all states are required to participate in these assessments. Additionally, an optional subject, writing, will be assessed at grade 8. As part of the ongoing Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), eleven districts will participate to receive district-level results.

This fact sheet will help prepare your school and students for participation.

What is involved?

Students will spend about 90 minutes participating, including answering questions in one subject area and completing background questions. The school principal and the teachers of the subjects being assessed will also receive a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to gather information about school characteristics and the types of educational experiences that may be related to performance, such as amount of homework, reading habits and teacher experience.

Additional questions are asked of teachers of selected students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) who are participating in NAEP.

NCES will also administer a separate survey to American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) students who are selected for NAEP and their teachers and school administrators. This survey, part of the National Indian Education Study (NIES), focuses on Indian education and the role of Indian culture in education. It is expected that one-quarter of the sampled schools nationally will have AI/AN students.

How many students are assessed?

Nationally, about 170,000 students at each grade in each subject will be selected to represent the nation and their state. In most grade 4 schools, all eligible students will be assessed. In most grade 8 schools, the sample will be approximately 90-100 students. In states with fewer than 100 schools, additional students will be selected at each grade.

What are the responsibilities of the school staff?

A staff person in your school will need to be assigned to serve as the School Coordinator. That person and the principal will work with the NAEP Staff who are responsible for conducting the assessment.

What are the responsibilities of the NAEP State Coordinator and NAEP Staff?

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your State Department of Education and will be responsible for:

- Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- Providing schools, in the fall, with instructions for preparing a list of grade-eligible students (if required) and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period; and
- Providing schools with a copy of the NAEP state report as soon as it becomes available.

NAEP Staff members are employed by an NCES contractor (not by your State Department of Education) to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of grade-eligible students;
- Sending a preassessment packet of information to the School Coordinator in early January;
- Visiting the School Coordinator shortly after the preassessment packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements;
- Bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day; and
- Conducting the assessment.

What are the responsibilities of the principal and School Coordinator?

Each principal will assign a School Coordinator to serve as the primary contact for the NAEP assessment. To prepare for NAEP, principals will be responsible for:

- Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- Empowering the designated School Coordinator to work with the NAEP Staff and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- Informing school staff about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The School Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the suggested assessment date is convenient for the school. Schools can change that date if necessary;
- If requested, providing the NAEP State Coordinator with a list of grade-eligible students; and
- Informing parents of the assessment. The NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished.

Before the assessment date, the School Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Receiving the preassessment packet and beginning final preparations for the assessment;
- Meeting with the NAEP Staff during the scheduled preassessment visit; and
- Ensuring that there is a plan with school staff to achieve high participation of students at the session.

Detailed information about the School Coordinator's responsibilities will be sent in the fall.



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