

A Contrast of the NAEP and WESTEST Assessments

<i>NAEP</i>	<i>WESTEST</i>
NAEP is a survey assessment that samples 2500-3000 students statewide in each state NAEP subject area, in about 100 schools per grade level.	WESTEST is a census assessment given to all WV students and schools.
NAEP assesses students in grades 4 and 8 at the state level, and grades 4, 8, and 12 at the national level.	WESTEST assesses students in grades 3 through 8 and 10.
NAEP assesses what students know and can do in reference to the NAEP content frameworks established by the National Assessment Governing Board.	WESTEST assesses student mastery of the WV CSOs written by WV educators.
NAEP identifies three achievement levels in addition to "Below Basic" – <i>Basic, Proficient, and Advanced</i> .	WESTEST identifies five achievement levels that are not aligned to any of the NAEP achievement levels in terms of content or cut scores – <i>Novice, Partial Mastery, Mastery, Above Mastery, and Distinguished</i> .
The NAEP Standard Setting is the process which determines cut scores for the three achievement levels. The NAEP Standard Setting process employs educators and members of the general public to rate the content for each of the items by grade level to determine expectations for students at each performance level. Cut scores are determined by aggregating the judges' ratings.	WESTEST Standard Setting is the process which determines the cut score range for each of the five achievement levels. The student's score determines the achievement level in which they are placed. The WV Standard Setting process utilizes West Virginia teachers to look at the content and the aggregate percent correct for each of the items by grade level and content area to determine the cut score ranges for each performance level.
NAEP scale scores are currently 0-500 in reading and mathematics and 0-300 in science.	WESTEST scale scores vary by subject and grade and range from 460 to 905.
NAEP assesses the entire NAEP framework at most difficulty levels for each content area.	WESTEST assess selected objectives at selected difficulty levels from each of the WV Content Standards.
NAEP provides state level data at grades 4 and 8 in reading and math <u>every two years</u> , and science and writing approximately <u>every four years</u> .	WESTEST <u>annually</u> assesses English/language arts (of which reading is a component), math, science, and social studies.
NAEP is a timed assessment (about 60 minutes for the assessment, plus administration time); but, being a survey assessment, no student answers all of the questions in each content area. Assessment of an entire content area would otherwise take each student about 6-8 hours.	WESTEST is an untimed assessment designed to take about 90 minutes per content area.

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<p>The purpose of NAEP is to provide state and national trend data on student performance.</p> <p>NAEP is prohibited by statute from establishing national or state curricula.</p> <p>The function reserved for NAEP under NCLB is to provide an informal “second opinion” and discussion tool regarding statewide assessment results.</p>	<p>The purpose of WESTEST is to provide state educators and citizens with data showing student achievement of the WV CSOS and to meet the accountability requirements of NCLB</p>
<p>The NAEP testing window is late January through early March.</p>	<p>The WESTEST testing window is mid-May.</p>
<p>NAEP results for reading and math are available in September (six months following the assessment). Results for non-NCLB content areas are available the following spring.</p>	<p>WESTEST results are available in August (two months following the assessment).</p>
<p><i>In a thinking skill range of 1 to 4, multiple choice items usually are valued at the 1 or 2 level. Performance items requiring a written response or a demonstration (like an experiment) are considered to have a high cognitive demand.</i></p>	
<p>The cognitive demand of NAEP items is high.</p> <p>The short-answer and extended-response questions <u>make up approximately 50 percent</u> or more of student assessment time.</p>	<p>The cognitive demand of WESTEST is appropriate for a criterion reference test measuring student mastery of a curriculum.</p> <p>WESTEST includes 10% performance based items per content, per grade level.</p>
<p>Constructed response questions generally offer higher cognitive demand (thinking skill level) than multiple choice items. Additionally constructed response questions are more costly to develop and score than multiple choice and take more time to score and return to states/schools because constructed response are scored by humans, rather than by machines.</p>	
<p>NAEP includes selected response, and both short and extended constructed response items.</p>	<p>WESTEST includes selected response, and both short and extended constructed response items.</p>
<p>The NAEP budget is approximately \$90 million per year.</p>	<p>The WESTEST budget is approximately about \$5 million per year.</p>
<p>NAEP is mandated for state schools at grades 4 and 8 in reading and mathematics by federal regulations for districts and states that receive Title I Funds. NAEP is also mandated for all subjects for which schools are selected by state code and state board policy, but is not mandatory for individual students.</p>	<p>All students are required to take WESTEST if they do not participate in the Alternate Assessment.</p>

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NAEP reports results for states, the nation's public schools as a whole, and the nation (including private schools) as a whole.	WESTEST reports results for students, schools, counties, and the state as a whole.
NAEP results can only be used to provide trend performance data or to provide comparisons among states, groups of states, or the nation.	WESTEST results can only be used to provide annual and trend (2 years) performance data within WV.
<p>NAEP has no consequences for poor performance.</p> <p>Most state educators do not understand NAEP. Consequently, many fail to do their best job of motivating students to perform well on NAEP.</p>	<p>WESTEST is a high-risk assessment used for NCLB accountability.</p> <p>Most state educators have been well trained on WESTEST and the use and analysis of WESTEST data. In their own interest, they do an excellent job of motivating students.</p>
The design of NAEP has evolved over 40 years.	WESTEST has produced data for 2 years.