

NAEP 2026

In Your School



Grades 4 and 8



Mathematics



Reading

National Assessment of
Educational Progress

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.

- ▶ First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects such as civics, mathematics, reading, science, and U.S. history.
- ▶ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent schools and students across the country.
- ▶ NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation.
- ▶ NAEP is a common measure of academic progress across the nation and over time. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card.

NAEP will be administered to a sample of fourth- and eighth-grade students in mathematics and reading between January 26 and March 20, 2026.

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, districts and states receiving Title I funding are required to participate in the biennial NAEP mathematics and reading assessments in grades 4 and 8.

Results for the 2026 math and reading assessments will be reported for the nation, states, and select urban districts. NAEP results are used by teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers to assess students' progress in various subject areas and develop ways to improve education in the United States.

What is involved?

Each student will be assessed in one subject only. It takes approximately 2 hours for students to complete the assessment, including transition time, directions, and completion of survey questions. NAEP survey questionnaires aim to get a better understanding of students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both inside and outside of the classroom.

The school principal and grade 4 and 8 teachers of the subjects being assessed will also complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to provide contextual information for the assessment results, as well as information about factors that may be related to students' learning.

Additional information will be collected about how students with disabilities and English learners will participate in the assessment and the accommodations they will receive.



For more information about NAEP,
visit www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.

Roles and Responsibilities for Coordinating and Administering NAEP

Who will be responsible for coordinating and administering NAEP?

Your NAEP State Coordinator, NAEP representatives, and school staff will work together to coordinate and administer the assessment. You will need to assign a member of your school's staff to serve as the **school coordinator** and be the primary contact for the assessment.

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your state department of education and will be responsible for

- ▶ working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ communicating with principals about the importance of NAEP and student participation;
- ▶ providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eighth-grade students and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- ▶ providing guidance for including students with disabilities and English learners; and
- ▶ responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

NAEP representatives employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools will be responsible for

- ▶ working with the school coordinator to finalize assessment logistics;
- ▶ participating in a virtual Assessment Planning Meeting with the school coordinator;
- ▶ bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ administering the assessment.

Each principal will be responsible for

- ▶ assigning a school staff member to serve as school coordinator;
- ▶ including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;

- ▶ empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP representative and NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The school coordinator will be responsible for

- ▶ confirming the scheduled assessment date with the NAEP State Coordinator;
- ▶ registering for the Assessment Management System (AMS) website, which will serve as the primary resource and action center throughout the NAEP assessment process;
- ▶ providing information about the school;
- ▶ if requested, overseeing the submission of an electronic list of all students in the selected grade;
- ▶ being familiar with how students participate in statewide assessments;
- ▶ using the AMS website to collect and enter student information;
- ▶ notifying parents of the assessment (more information will be provided on how to complete this task);
- ▶ communicating with the NAEP representative and participating in a virtual Assessment Planning Meeting to finalize assessment preparations;
- ▶ reserving space for the assessment, including room(s), desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location; and
- ▶ collaborating with school staff to ensure a high rate of student participation.

Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent at the beginning of the school year.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts the National Assessment of Educational Progress to evaluate federally supported education programs. All of the information you provide may only be used for the purposes of research, statistics, and evaluation under the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (ESRA; 20 U.S.C. § 9543) and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law. Every NCES employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you in any unauthorized manner. Electronic submission of your information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015.

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