

District: «District_Name»

Dear «District_Supt_Title» «District_Supt_Fname» «District_Supt_Lname»,

Thank you for all that you do to support education in Montana. I am writing to notify you that «NAEP_Statement» been selected to participate in the 2026 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments, also known as *The Nation's Report Card*. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students in the United States know and can do in various subjects. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education. Selected schools represent schools across the Montana, and their participation provides an accurate picture of student performance. Participation is required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization of 2015 for any district receiving Title I funds.

In 2026, NAEP will administer mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4, 8 and 12 and civics and U.S. history at grade 8 from **January 26 to March 20, 2026**. Each student will be assessed in one subject only. Selected schools are notified in advance so authorized representatives can include the NAEP assessment on their calendars and incorporate NAEP into the planned school program. Please review the attached «District_Name»'s District Schools Selected for NAEP 2026.

As conducted in previous years, NAEP representatives provide significant support to schools by administering the assessment. Your school will be assigned to participate using either school-managed or NAEP devices. We will work with your technology staff to determine which mode of administration works best for your NAEP-selected school(s). To begin technology preparations, you'll need to designate a technology coordinator and principal at each NAEP-selected school. Please complete the NAEP 2026 Designate School Contacts form by **Friday, August 1st**.

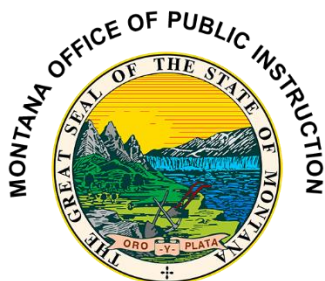
District Attention Needed

«District_Name» will play an important role by participating, and we know that we can count on your full support to make this a positive experience for your school(s) and students. The list of selected school(s) from your district is attached and includes the assessment program for each school.

1. **Review** the attached District Schools Selected for NAEP 2026 (sampled school, NAEP ID, sampled grade, assessment subjects, and principal name).
2. **Review** the State Superintendent's NAEP 2026 Memorandum.
3. **Include** the NAEP assessment window on your district calendar.
4. **Complete** the NAEP 2026 Designate School Contacts form by **Friday, August 1st**.

Your support is vital in our efforts to measure what Montana students know and can do. For additional information, please see Selecting Schools for Participation in State-Level NAEP, Facts for Districts, and visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Shantel Niederstadt

NAEP State Coordinator

Montana Office of Public Instruction

- Phone: (406) 444.3450
- Email: sniederstadt@mt.gov
- Website: <http://opi.mt.gov/>

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.