

NAEP 2024–2025 Facts for Districts

“NAEP is the only assessment providing half a century of performance data to measure what students know and can do. The state and national trends inform local, state, and national program and policy discussions that improve teaching and learning.”

—David Atherton, EdD, Principal, Clear Creek Middle School, Gresham, OR

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an integral measure of academic progress across the nation and over time. It is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects, such as civics, mathematics, reading, and U.S. history. The program also provides valuable insights into students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn in and outside of the classroom.

NAEP is a congressionally mandated program administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.

How are NAEP results reported?

The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card. Depending on the assessment, NAEP results are available for the nation, states, and select urban districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA). Results are also available for different student groups, based on factors such as race/ethnicity, gender, school location, and more. NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.

Why should my district participate in NAEP?

Your district's participation will help ensure that educators, policymakers, and elected officials have reliable data to better understand and improve student learning. Schools and students selected to participate in NAEP represent schools and students across the country. When students participate and give their best effort, NAEP results provide the most accurate and representative measure possible of student achievement and experience.

What NAEP assessments will be administered in the 2024–2025 school year?

The 2024–2025 program will include the long-term trend assessments for 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds. The table below provides further information.

NAEP long-term trend assessments measure student performance in mathematics and reading and allow the performance of today's students to be compared with students since the early 1970s. Students will also be asked to complete a survey questionnaire to provide a better understanding of factors that may be related to students' learning. There will be no teacher questionnaire, but a school questionnaire will be administered via paper and pencil to gather information about school policies and characteristics. Results will be released for the nation.

NCES will also administer the NAEP 2025 field test to assess students at grades 4, 8, and 12 in mathematics and reading. The field test is part of a transition to administering NAEP using school computers and Internet, which will allow students to have a more authentic assessment experience by using a device with which they are familiar. The assessment window for the field test is January 27–March 7, 2025. Results from this field test will not be released but will inform future NAEP assessments.

ASSESSMENTS ADMINISTERED IN THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Age	Assessment Window	Type of NAEP assessment	Subjects	Format
Age 13	October 7–December 13, 2024	Long-term trend	Mathematics Reading	Paper and Pencil
Age 9	January 6–March 14, 2025			
Age 17	March 17–May 23, 2025			

What will students in my district do?

Participating students will complete subject-area questions in mathematics or reading. Each student will be assessed in one subject only. Students will also complete a survey questionnaire.

It takes participating students approximately 90 minutes to complete the long-term trend assessment and 2 hours to complete the field test assessment. This includes transition time, directions, and completion of a survey questionnaire. A broad range of accommodations are provided for students with disabilities and English learners.

Do teachers need to prepare students for the assessment?

Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment but should encourage them to do their best.

How can school administrators and teachers use NAEP data to help our students?

The Nation's Report Card website (nationsreportcard.gov) allows you to examine the relationships between student performance and factors such as instructional practices, school resources, and more.

Questions from previous NAEP assessments can also be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. Teachers can use the NAEP Questions Tool (nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt) to see how their students' performance compares to peers in your state and across the nation. Released NAEP questions come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data.

Who will administer NAEP? What do schools need to provide on the day of the assessment?

NAEP representatives will administer the NAEP assessment and provide significant support to schools on assessment day.

For the long-term trend assessments, NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials; schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment, including desks or tables. For the field test, NAEP representatives will reach out to schools closer to assessment day regarding use of school computers and Internet.

How were schools in my district selected for NAEP?

Schools were selected as part of a carefully designed sampling process that ensures NAEP-selected schools and students are representative of your district, state, and the nation.

How is NAEP different from our state assessment?

NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. While states have their own unique assessments to measure student achievement against specific content standards, NAEP is designed to provide a common measure of student performance and progress across the country.

How long has NAEP been around?

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. The NAEP TUDA program, which measures student achievement in some of the nation's large urban districts, began in 2002. The program has come to be recognized as the gold standard of large-scale assessments due to its high technical quality and rigorous design and methodology.

How often is NAEP administered?

As part of main NAEP, students in grades 4 and 8 are scheduled to be assessed at the state and national levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years. Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, districts and states that receive Title I funds are required to participate in these biennial assessments. Other subjects are assessed periodically. Long-term trend assessments for 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds are also assessed periodically.

Where can I find more information?

Learn more about the NAEP program at nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard, and explore the latest NAEP results at nationsreportcard.gov.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is authorized to conduct NAEP by the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (20 U.S.C. §9622) and to collect students' education records from education agencies or institutions for the purposes of evaluating federally supported education programs under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 34 CFR §§ 99.31(a)(3)(iii) and 99.35). All of the information provided by participants may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). 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 participants. Electronic submission of participant's information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015. The collected information will be combined across respondents to produce statistical reports.

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