



May 22, 2018

Dear Mr. Hyland:

I am pleased to notify you that one or more schools in your district has/have been selected to participate in the 2019 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). 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 Pennsylvania and the nation, and their participation provides an accurate picture of student performance. **Plum Borough Sd** will play an important role by participating, and I know that we can count on your full support to make this a meaningful experience for your schools and students.

Selected schools are notified in advance so that principals can place the assessment window (January 28 to March 8, 2019) on their calendars and incorporate NAEP into the planned school program. Starting in June, each school principal will receive notification and a specific assessment date. Schools may work with the NAEP State Coordinator if there is a conflict with the scheduled assessment date.

The NAEP 2019 administration will include two main assessment programs. The attached list of district schools selected for NAEP shows the assessment program for each selected school.

- State-level assessments
  - Grades 4 and 8: Mathematics and reading
- National and pilot assessments
  - Grades 4 and 8: Science assessments; mathematics and reading pilots
  - Grade 12: Mathematics, reading, and science assessments

For state-level assessments, NAEP will administer mathematics and reading assessments to students in grades 4 and 8. Students will take the assessment on tablets provided by NAEP representatives. National and state-level results will be released as The Nation's Report Card.

For national-level assessments, NAEP will administer science assessments to students in grades 4, 8, and 12. In addition to science, grade 12 students will take mathematics and reading assessments. Most students will take the assessment on tablets provided by NAEP representatives, while a small subset of students will take paper-and-pencil versions. NAEP is administering these assessments via both tablets and paper booklets to evaluate any differences in student performance between the two types of administration. National results will be released as The Nation's Report Card.

NAEP will also administer pilot assessments on tablets. Students in grades 4 and 8 will also participate in mathematics and reading pilots. Results from these pilots will not be released but will be used to ensure that future NAEP assessments continue to be a reliable measure of student achievement.

Selected high schools will participate in the High School Transcript Study, which involves the collection of student transcripts and course catalogues. This information will be used to examine course-taking patterns of students and the relationships with educational achievements through the link to NAEP data. Other special studies may occur in some schools as well. As in previous years, NAEP representatives

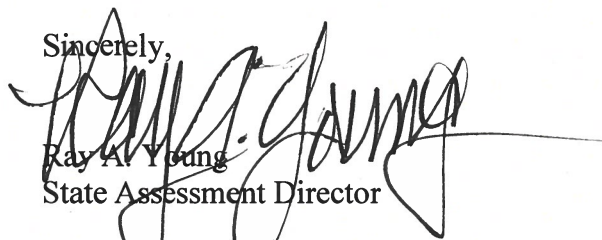


provide significant support to schools: they bring all necessary materials and equipment, including tablets, and administer the assessment.

Please include the NAEP assessment window (January 28 to March 8, 2019) on your district test calendar. Information about NAEP can be found in the enclosures listed below and at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. Drew Schuckman, our NAEP State Coordinator, will contact your staff with additional information.

Thank you for supporting this important assessment.

Sincerely,



Ray A. Young  
State Assessment Director

Enclosures: List of district schools selected for NAEP  
*Facts for Districts*

CC: NAEP State Coordinator

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*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). The information each student provides will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, student responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. 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 students. Electronic submission of student 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.*



Plum Borough Sd

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4 mathematics and reading



# NAEP 2019

## Facts for Districts

### NAEP is an integral part of education in the United States.

- ▶ Elected officials, policymakers, and educators all use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.
- ▶ NAEP serves a different role than state assessments. While states have their own unique assessments with different content standards, the same NAEP assessment is administered in every state, providing a common measure of student achievement.
- ▶ Depending on the type of NAEP assessment that is administered, the data can be used to compare and understand the performance of demographic groups within your state, the nation, other states, and districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA). NAEP is not designed to collect or report results for individual students, classrooms, or schools.
- ▶ To provide a better understanding of educational experiences and factors that may be related to students' learning, students, teachers, and principals who participate in NAEP are asked to complete survey questionnaires.

*"Informational assessment materials were accessible and easy to understand. The NAEP representative assigned to our school was supportive and very knowledgeable about assessment protocols and what our school needed to do to be well prepared. On testing day, the NAEP team was organized and administered the assessment efficiently."*

- Ronda E. George, Assistant Principal, Noe Middle School, Louisville, KY



**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card.

District staff play an essential role in NAEP. Superintendents and district staff can work closely with principals to explain the importance of the assessment to teachers and participating students. When students take part in the assessment and give their best effort, NAEP results provide the most accurate measure possible of student achievement across the country.

Results will be released at the national, state, and TUDA levels for the mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8. National results will be released for the science assessment at grades 4, 8, and 12 and the mathematics and reading assessments at grade 12. NAEP will also administer pilot assessments in 2019. Information collected from pilots will be used to ensure that future NAEP assessments continue to be a reliable measure of student achievement. By participating in pilot assessments, schools and students take an active role in how NAEP is administered and how other students will experience the assessment. Most students will take the assessment on tablets, while a small subset of students will take paper-and-pencil versions. Administering assessments via both tablets and paper booklets help in evaluating any difference in student performance between the two types of administration.

NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools on assessment day, including tablets with keyboards. Schools will only need to provide space for students to take the assessment, desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location—schools will not need to provide internet access. The table below shows which subjects will be assessed in 2019.

#### The NAEP 2019 Program (January 28 to March 8, 2019)

Grade	Subject	Format	
		 Tablet	 Paper/Pencil
Grades 4 and 8	Mathematics	✓	
	Mathematics (Pilot)	✓	
	Reading	✓	
	Reading (Pilot)	✓	
	Science	✓	✓
Grade 12	Mathematics	✓	✓
	Reading	✓	✓
	Science	✓	✓



For more information about NAEP, visit  
[www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard).

# It's important to know...

NAEP was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. Students in grades 4 and 8 are currently assessed at the national and state levels in mathematics and reading every 2 years and in other subjects periodically. The NAEP TUDA program, which measures student achievement in some of the nation's large urban districts, began in 2002.

## Special studies will also be conducted in 2019.

- ▶ American Indian and Alaska Native students participating in the NAEP mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8 will also be included in the National Indian Education Study (NIES). NIES describes the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in the United States and its connection with native culture. Students will participate in NIES by completing the NAEP mathematics or reading assessment and a short survey questionnaire, including questions about their educational experiences and opportunities to learn about their AI/AN culture and traditions.
- ▶ The High School Transcript Study will analyze transcripts from a sample of high school graduates. This study provides information about coursetaking patterns and examines relationships with educational achievements through the link to NAEP data.
- ▶ Some students may also be selected to answer additional contextual questions, as part of the NAEP student survey questionnaire, for other special studies to help put NAEP achievement results into context and better understand how well education is meeting the needs of all students.

For more information about NAEP special studies, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies>.

**NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality.** From the development of assessment 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 trusted resource that measures student progress and helps inform policy decisions that improve education in the United States.

**NAEP results are reported for different demographic groups rather than for individual students or schools.** Within a school, just some of the student population participates, and student responses are combined with those from other participating students to produce the results. Student responses on NAEP are confidential, and the privacy of each participating school and student is essential.\* Names of participating students never leave the school and are not associated with the digital or paper test booklet after the student takes the assessment.

**A carefully designed sampling process ensures that NAEP-selected schools and students are representative of all schools and students across the United States.** To ensure that the sample represents all students in the nation's schools, a broad range of accommodations are allowed for students with disabilities and English language learners.

**NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of classroom instruction.** Including transition time, directions, and the completion of a survey questionnaire, it takes approximately 120 minutes for students to complete digital assessments and up to 90 minutes for students to complete paper-and-pencil assessments. Each student will be assessed in one format and one subject only. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take the assessment but should encourage them to do their best. NAEP representatives provide significant support to your district's schools by working with the designated coordinator in each school to organize assessment activities.

**NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom.** Teachers and district staff can use the NAEP Questions Tool (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt>) to see how students' performance compares nationally on specific items. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data.

Visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> to access this information and more.

\*The information each student provides will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, student responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. By law, every National Center for Education Statistics (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 students. Electronic submission of student 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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