

# NAEP 2010 Facts for Principals



## NAEP is an integral part of American education.

- ▶ The President, Congress, and policymakers use NAEP to develop ways to improve education.
- ▶ NAEP provides a common yardstick for measuring the progress of students' education across the country.
- ▶ NAEP data shows where groups of students have progressed or need improvement in certain concepts or subject areas.
- ▶ NAEP data can be used to compare student groups within your state, the nation, and other states.
- ▶ Teachers can use sample NAEP questions and scoring guides in their classrooms.

“NAEP is a necessary tool and way for my colleagues and me to make sure that the expectations that we have for teaching, learning, and ultimately student achievement, are where they belong.”

- Brian Dassler, *Principal Designate, New Orleans Public Schools, New Orleans, LA*

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## The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

is the only nationally representative assessment of what American students know and can do in core subjects such as civics, mathematics, reading, science, U.S. history, and writing. The results of NAEP are published as The Nation's Report Card, and are available for the nation, states, and in some cases, urban districts.

**As principals, you are essential partners in this effort.** You make an important contribution by working closely with your teachers and staff and explaining why the assessment is important. You can also help by selecting and empowering a NAEP School Coordinator, by meeting with students who will participate in the assessment, and by encouraging your students to participate and do their best. When students take part in NAEP and try their best, we get the most accurate data depicting what American students know and can do.



<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

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## It's important to know that...

**NAEP was developed in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally.** NAEP assesses 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students in mathematics and reading every two years, and other subjects in alternating years. NAEP also conducts a Long-Term Trend assessment every four years to measure students' progress in mathematics and reading over a period of time, as well as special studies during various assessment cycles.

**In 2010, assessments will be administered in 4th, 8th, and 12th grades. Results will be released for:**

- ▶ U.S. History
- ▶ Civics
- ▶ Geography

**Pilot assessments will also be administered in:**

- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Writing (includes computer-based for grades 8 and 12)

**NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments.** NAEP is an important assessment because of its impeccable technical quality. The assessment's frameworks are developed with input from state education officials, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the country.

**NAEP reports on results for groups of students, rather than for individual students or schools.**

NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling process to ensure that the schools and students selected are representative of those across the United States. To ensure that the sample represents all students in the

nation's schools, NAEP allows a broad array of accommodations for students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) during the assessment.

**NAEP is designed to cause minimal disruption of instruction.** It will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes for students to complete NAEP. Students are asked questions on subjects they encounter every day and to provide contextual information, such as the amount of reading they do and what types of classes they take. Teachers do not need to prepare their students to take NAEP. Contractors with the United States Department of Education administer the assessment and work with your NAEP School Coordinator to organize assessment activities.

**NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource.** Teachers can use actual NAEP items that have been released to see how their students' performance compares to the national results. Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data by jurisdiction. Questions can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrsl/>.

At <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>, school staff can also:

- ▶ View national and state results
- ▶ Compare results for various student groups
- ▶ Access specific information for teachers, students, and parents



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“The NAEP team that was assigned to our school did a wonderful, seamless job in preparing us and administering the exam. Everything was well explained before, during, and after testing took place.”

-Alejandra Salima Jacquinet, *Assistant Principal, Mater Academy (charter school), Hialeah, FL*

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