

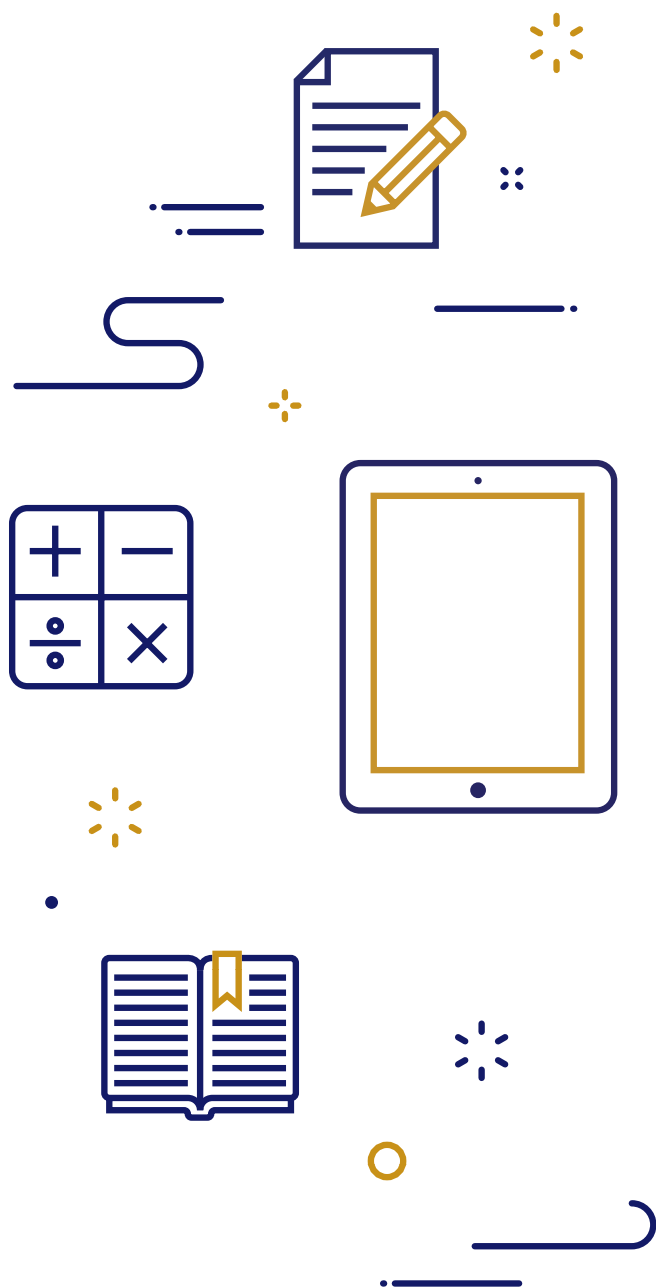
# 2021 State Guide to NAEP Participation





**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**, often called The Nation's Report Card, is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students in the United States know and are able to do in various subjects. Since 1969, NAEP has been a common measure of student achievement across the country in mathematics, reading, science, writing, and many other subjects. Depending on the assessment, NAEP report cards provide national, state, and some district-level results, as well as results for different demographic groups. Federal and state policymakers, educators, and researchers use NAEP results to assess student progress and develop ways to improve education across the country and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

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



## NAEP State Participation

Since its inception, NAEP has been a partnership between the federal government and the states, and states have continued to support NAEP national assessments through their schools' participation. In 1990, NAEP was administered at the state level for the first time. Since then, states have had the opportunity to receive results in mathematics, reading, science, and writing at grades 4 and 8, allowing for comparisons over time to the nation and other states. Beginning in 2003, all states have participated in the state NAEP mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8.

## The NAEP 2021 Assessment Program

The 2021 NAEP program will include digitally based assessments, administered on tablets, in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8 and civics and U.S. history at grade 8 only. The majority of students will only be assessed in one subject. However, some schools selected for mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8 will participate in a new, innovative assessment design. For schools participating in this new design, some students will answer questions in only mathematics or reading, and other students will answer questions in both subjects. NAEP representatives will bring all necessary materials and equipment to schools. Schools will not need to provide internet access.

In 2021, state-level data will be collected in mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8. Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization of 2001 and

This publication provides an overview of the NAEP 2021 assessments for state officials to promote understanding of the activities that will take place during the assessment cycle.

Additional information on the NAEP program and its data collection process is available from NAEP State Coordinators and through the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.



continuing with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed into law in December 2015, state applications for Title I funds must include an assurance that states will participate in the biennial NAEP mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8 and that state results will be reported.

Twenty-seven districts will participate in the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) in mathematics and reading in grades 4 and 8. A primary goal of NAEP TUDA is to focus attention on urban education by measuring what students in the nation's largest urban districts know and can do in mathematics and reading.

Additional information about the NAEP program and the data collection process is available from your state's NAEP State Coordinator and through the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

For additional information about the new assessment design please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/advancements.aspx>.

## School and Student Participation

The NAEP 2021 state assessments will be administered to representative state samples of public school students in grades 4 and 8. States that have districts participating in NAEP TUDA will have more schools and students added to their samples in order to ensure a representative TUDA sample.

The NAEP contractor responsible for sampling and data collection will draw the sample for each state from the Common Core of Data (CCD), an NCES program that annually collects fiscal and other data about all public schools, public school districts, and state education agencies in the United States. The NAEP State Coordinator ensures the list of schools is current. As appropriate, demographic variables of racial and ethnic composition, type of school location, and school achievement on state assessments are used to help define which schools are selected within each state.

Within selected schools, students are randomly selected from a list of all students enrolled in the grade(s) to be assessed. The NAEP contractor works directly with the NAEP state and district coordinators on the submission of the student lists.

## Parent Notification

Federal law requires that parents or legal guardians of students selected for the NAEP sample be notified about the assessment and informed that they may choose not to allow their children to participate. NAEP State Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that districts or schools provide this information to all parents of students selected to participate in NAEP. Sample letters will be provided to NAEP State Coordinators for tailoring to state needs.



## **NAEP 2021 Mathematics and Reading Assessment Content**

Each NAEP assessment is based on a framework that describes the specific knowledge and skills that should be assessed. The National Assessment Governing Board oversees the creation of NAEP frameworks, with input from subject matter experts, practitioners, and members of the general public—including researchers, educators, business leaders, and policymakers. NAEP frameworks also describe the types of questions that should be included and how they should be designed and scored. NAEP frameworks are available at the National Assessment Governing Board website at <https://www.nagb.gov>.

The mathematics framework for NAEP 2021 is the same framework that has been used since 2005 for mathematics assessments at grades 4 and 8. This framework, approved by the National Assessment Governing Board, replaces the framework first used for the 1990 mathematics assessment and subsequent mathematics assessments through 2005. Trends in student performance for participating states can be measured since 1992 for grade 4 and 1990 for grade 8.

The mathematics framework calls for questions based on five content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra. Questions are also categorized according to mathematical complexity (low, moderate, or high), which describes what level of cognitive demand is required for students to answer each question correctly.

Students respond to both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions designed to assess the framework objectives.

The reading framework for NAEP 2021 is the same framework that has been used since the 2009 reading assessments at grades 4 and 8. This is the second reading framework approved by the National Assessment Governing Board and replaces the framework first used for the 1992 reading assessment and subsequent reading assessments through 2007. Trends in state achievement for participating states can be measured since 1992 for grades 4 and 8.

The reading framework specifies two types of texts to be included on the assessment: literary texts and informational texts. The framework also specifies that vocabulary knowledge will be assessed. Vocabulary items function both as a measure of passage comprehension and as a test of readers' understanding of how the text influences the meaning of the word. The framework also specifies three cognitive targets, or behaviors and skills, for items from both literary and informational texts: locate/recall, integrate/interpret, and critique/evaluate. To measure these cognitive skills, students respond to both multiple-choice and constructed-response items.



## NAEP Reports and the Release of Results

Prior to NCES's release of the NAEP 2021 national and state results, NAEP State Coordinators will receive selected data for review, which will include inclusion rates and demographic data. Because state participation is mandatory for the mathematics and reading assessments at grades 4 and 8, no formal approval process is required for results to be published; a state is deemed to have given its permission to release its results if the state has submitted an application for Title I funds.

Results for each participating state will be analyzed and reported in a manner that permits comparisons both over time and to other participating states and the nation. To prepare for the release, NCES works with NAEP State Coordinators to analyze the data and assist in understanding the results.

The National Assessment Governing Board facilitates the initial public release of NAEP reports and determines the date and time for the release. To assist state participation in the release of the results, each state will be given the

date and time of the national release so that state releases can be coordinated with the release of national and state NAEP results.

States may prepare and release reports of their state NAEP results either concurrently with or subsequent to the official public release.

All assessment results are embargoed until the time of the national release of the NAEP data by the NCES commissioner. This means that no individual or party may share or disclose NAEP results prior to the initial public release of NAEP reports by NCES.

## For More Information

For more information about participating in the 2021 state assessment program, contact your NAEP State Coordinator and/or Gina Broxterman ([Gina.Broxterman@ed.gov](mailto:Gina.Broxterman@ed.gov)), Assessment Division, NCES (202-245-7791). Further information about NAEP is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> and <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>. Information about the National Assessment Governing Board is available at <http://www.nagb.gov>.

Find us on:



Released questions from previous assessments are available online by using the NAEP Questions Tool at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nqt>. NAEP Item Maps can also be examined at the NAEP website at <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/itemmaps>.



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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