

Questions and answers about participation in NAEP assessments

Are STATES required to participate in NAEP testing? Answer: YES

The following assurances are listed in the documentation for any state to receive Title 1 funding:

VII. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

O. NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

O-1. What is the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as "the Nation's Report Card," is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what American students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, NAEP has conducted assessments in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts. NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools; instead, it offers results at the national and state level regarding subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students) and subgroups of these populations (e.g., Hispanic students, female students). NAEP results are based on samples of student populations tested in selected schools and districts.

O-2. What are the requirements for participation in NAEP?

Every State that receives Title I, Part A funds must participate in NAEP's biennial State academic assessments of reading and mathematics in grades four and eight. Further, all LEAs that receive Title I, Part A funds and the schools within those LEAs are required to participate in these biennial State assessments of grades four and eight reading and math if selected as part of a State's NAEP sample. State, LEA, and school participation in NAEP assessments, other than reading and mathematics assessments at grades four and eight, is voluntary.

Parents of children selected to participate in NAEP assessments must be informed before the administration of the assessment that their child may be excused from participation. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which administers the NAEP assessments, will assist schools, school districts, and States in notifying parents of students selected for NAEP samples about the "opt out" provision in federal law.

The manner of such notification shall be determined by the state, district, or school in which the students are enrolled. NCES will prepare and disseminate more detailed information on NAEP that is specifically designed for parents and the public.

O-3. Will the federal government provide assistance to SEAs and LEAs for their participation in NAEP assessments?

Yes. Starting in 2002, NAEP will take responsibility for the administrative support from participating States, districts, and schools. NAEP has established a Web site: <https://www.mynaep.com/default.asp> to notify schools and districts about its assessment activities. Further, NAEP supports a NAEP State Coordinator in each state who serves as the liaison between the State Education Agency and NAEP. The coordinator reviews NAEP assessment items and processes, coordinates the NAEP administration in the state, analyzes and reports NAEP data, and coordinates the use of NAEP results for policy and program planning. In addition, NAEP will establish a NAEP State Service Center to provide ongoing support, technical assistance, and training for the NAEP State Coordinators, answer information requests regarding NAEP, conduct meetings with the NAEP State Coordinators and the State Testing Directors, and maintain a NAEP Information Center.

O-4. Who takes NAEP assessments?

NAEP assesses students in both public and non-public schools in grades four, eight, and twelve. Between 60 and 120 students from a given school are selected at random to take NAEP assessments. In a State NAEP sample, approximately 2,500 students per grade and per subject participate.

O-5. Are accommodations offered for LEP students and students with disabilities during NAEP assessments?

Yes. To ensure that NAEP samples are as representative as possible and to ensure that a high percentage of sampled students can participate, NAEP allows certain accommodations for students with disabilities and for limited English proficient students.

O-6. How are NAEP assessment results reported?

NAEP data are aggregated and reported at national and state levels only. In a few special cases, data may be reported at the district level when a representative sample of the district is selected. NAEP results may not be reported for individual students and schools. All NAEP data related to

individual students and their families remain confidential in accordance with federal law.

O-7. Will NAEP data be used to measure a State's adequate yearly progress?

No.

Are local school districts required to participate in NAEP testing at Grades 4 and 8? Answer: YES

The following statement appears in the Title IA Assessment and Planning page that is sent to each LEA in Maine.

The LEA agrees, if selected to participate in the State National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics carried out under section 411 (b)(2) of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994.

_____YES _____NO (If "NO", the LEA can not receive funds under this part.)