



Parent Facts for NAEP

Questions & Answers

What is NAEP?

Q: What is the NAEP Assessment?

A: NAEP, or the National Assessment of Educational Progress, is often called the "Nation's Report Card." It is the largest continuing and nationally representative test of what our nation's students know and can do. It is used to examine trends across the nation in order to help states make decisions that help improve instruction.

Q: Does NAEP replace the state tests?

A: No. Most state tests measure student performance using the state's own curriculum standards.

Q: Will taking NAEP affect my child's grade?

A: No. NAEP does not calculate scores for individual students, so neither the government nor your child's school or teacher will ever know how your child performed on NAEP.

Q: Will I get to see the results of my child's test? Where can I see questions that my child will take?

A: No. There are no individual student results. To explore NAEP questions, visit the [NAEP Questions Tool](#), sample test [Booklets](#), or the [NAEP website](#).

Q: How was my child selected?

A: Your child was randomly selected to participate as a representative of students in your state who attend schools with similar characteristics. The schools selected to participate in NAEP are representative of the demographic and geographic composition of the state as a whole.

Q: May my child take NAEP if he or she was not selected?

A: No. Through a careful process, NAEP selects the smallest number of students possible to represent your state and the nation fairly and accurately.

Q: Will my child's answers be kept confidential?

A: Yes. It is against federal law to identify any student participating in the assessment. NAEP combines all student responses to provide information on the performance of groups of students.

What is Happening in 2017?

Q: Why is NAEP moving to tablets for most students?

A: Tablets allow NAEP to administer new types of test items, including simulations and scenarios, that add depth to our understanding of what students know and can do. Many states also administer computer-based assessments.

Q: Why is NAEP administering paper tests to some students?

A: NAEP will examine whether results from paper tests and tablet tests are comparable in order to understand how to report NAEP trend results for mathematics and reading.

Q: How long does the NAEP paper session last?

A: The NAEP paper tests require 90 minutes (including instructions and transition time). Students do not need to prepare for the test. They will not know in advance which subject they will take. Each student only takes one subject. Students cannot read or do other schoolwork during the test.

Q: How long does the NAEP tablet session last?

A: The NAEP tablet tests require 120 minutes (including instructions and transition time). Students do not need to prepare for the test. They will not know in advance which subject they will take. Each student only takes one subject. Some students with accommodations may take longer. Some students may finish NAEP in less than 120 minutes.

Q: What equipment does NAEP use for tablet testing?

A: Surface Pro 3/4 tablets. NAEP does not use school equipment. NAEP provides new earbuds for each student.

Q: Will my child's teacher spend class time preparing for NAEP?

A: No. Preparation for NAEP is not necessary or expected. The assessment material was carefully designed to cover those topics that should already be a part of the general curriculum for grades 4, 8, and 12.

Many thanks to the students participating in NAEP 2017!