

# NAEP-NTPS Linking Study

## Facts for Schools



National Assessment of  
Educational Progress

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

- ▶ The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in a variety of academic subjects. NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ In addition to the assessments, NAEP coordinates a number of related special studies. Such studies often involve special data collection procedures in the field, in-depth analyses of NAEP results, and evaluations of various technical procedures.
- ▶ The National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) is a nationwide sample survey of teaching and working conditions in schools, as well as characteristics of teachers and principals.

### What is the NAEP-NTPS Linking Study?

In 2018, a pilot linking study will be introduced to explore the feasibility of administering both the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS) to a common set of teachers and schools as part of the NAEP administration. The study will be conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education.

Both NAEP and NTPS questionnaires gather specific data that contribute to a better understanding of educational progress, as well as teacher and school staff experiences across the nation. NAEP questionnaires gather information from schools and teachers on topics like school policies, teacher training, and instructional practice. NTPS questionnaires gather descriptive data from teachers and principals on topics including autonomy, professional development, career path, and school environment.

Prior to administration, a comparison of NAEP and NTPS questionnaires will be conducted to reduce any overlap questions asked of study participants. Schools and teachers will respond to the NAEP questionnaire followed by the NTPS questionnaire. A separate set of teachers in the same school will participate in the NTPS questionnaire only.

### Who is participating in the NAEP-NTPS Linking Study?

Your state has volunteered to participate in this linking study, and your school's participation helps ensure your state is represented. The linking study will include selected schools, teachers, and principals that participate in NAEP pilot administrations.

### Why is participation important?

The goal of the NAEP-NTPS Linking Study is to reduce the burden on schools by combining the questionnaires, increasing participation rates, and therefore enhancing the usefulness of both NAEP and NTPS data. Data gathered from this linking NAEP-NTPS pilot study will help researchers and policymakers learn about our nation's schools, teachers, and principals so they can improve education for all students.

Only a small number of schools will participate in this study. By participating, your school will ensure that collected data reflect schools like yours.



For more information about NAEP, visit [nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard)  
For more information about NTPS, visit [nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps](https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps)

# More Information About NTPS...

Through a system of related questionnaires, NTPS gathers data on the context of elementary and secondary education and provides a variety of statistics on the condition of education in the United States. NTPS is the only nationwide survey that provides this kind of information, and it does not involve students, parents, or any use of classroom time.

**NTPS is the redesign of a study conducted by NCES dating back to 1987.** NTPS allows for comparison among data from teachers, principals, and schools and is designed to promote flexibility, timeliness, and integration with other U.S. Department of Education data collections.

**The data gathered by NTPS will help inform and shape future education policies.** Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, state education agencies, public school districts, education associations, and the education research community use data from NTPS to do the following:

- ▶ Evaluate the effects of school workplace conditions, salaries, and training opportunities on the educational work force;
- ▶ Assess school staffing practices and personnel policies; and
- ▶ Help the U.S. Department of Education's program planning for teacher shortage incentives, teaching policies, and teacher education.

In the past, some of the most frequently published topics have included class size, number and characteristics of new teachers, teaching certification, teacher professional development, teacher attrition/retention, and teacher qualifications.

**NTPS has been designed with input from state and local education agencies, educators, school administrators, education policymakers, and researchers.** To allow for a variety of statistics, NTPS regularly gathers data every two years on core topics like teacher and principal preparation, classes taught, school characteristics, and demographics of the teacher and principal labor force. In addition, each administration of NTPS contains rotating modules on important education topics like professional development, working conditions, and evaluation.

Participation is voluntary and student answers may be used only for research purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law [Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. §9573)]. 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.



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