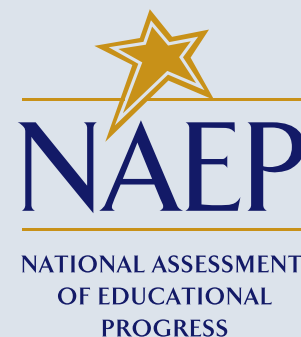


# NAEP 2017 In Your School

## Writing Comparability Study



### WHAT IS NAEP?

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.**

- ▶ First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects, such as civics, geography, mathematics, reading, U.S. history, and writing.
- ▶ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students across the country.
- ▶ NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation.
- ▶ NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card.

The NAEP writing comparability study will be administered to a sample of eighth-grade students in your school between April 24 and May 19, 2017.

The first writing digitally based assessment was administered on laptops in 2011. However, the writing assessment will shift delivery mode from laptops to tablets in 2017. The comparability study includes administering writing tasks via laptop to help NAEP evaluate any differences in student performance between tablet and laptop administrations.

Information collected from the study is part of an effort to adjust to ongoing shifts in digital technologies that will characterize digitally based assessments.

### What is involved?

Students will spend approximately 120 minutes participating in the study, including transition time, directions, and responding to writing tasks. They will also be asked to complete a questionnaire that aims to get a better understanding of their educational experiences, such as the amount of writing they do and the types of classes they take.

The school principal and grade 8 teachers will also complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to help provide contextual information for the results, as well as information about factors that may be related to students' writing achievement.

Additional information will be collected about how selected students with disabilities and English language learners might participate in the assessment.

### How many students will be assessed?

Nationally, approximately 3,000 students will be assessed in eighth grade.



For more information about NAEP, visit:  
[www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard](http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard)

# It's important to know...

## **Who will be responsible for coordinating and administering NAEP?**

Your NAEP State Coordinator, NAEP representatives, and school staff will work together to coordinate and administer the assessment. A staff person in your school will need to be assigned to serve as the school coordinator and be the primary contact for the assessment. This person should be:

- ▶ familiar with how students participate in statewide assessments; and
- ▶ comfortable using a computer to collect and enter student information online.

## **The NAEP State Coordinator works at your state Department of Education and will be responsible for:**

- ▶ working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ communicating with principals about the importance of NAEP and student participation;
- ▶ providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eighth-grade students and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- ▶ providing guidance for including students with disabilities and English language learners; and
- ▶ responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

## **NAEP representatives employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools will be responsible for:**

- ▶ selecting a random sample of students from the school list of eighth-graders;
- ▶ verifying information that the school coordinator has provided via the MyNAEP website, which will serve as the primary resource and action center throughout the NAEP assessment process;
- ▶ working with the school coordinator to finalize assessment logistics;
- ▶ bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ conducting the assessment.

## **Each principal will be responsible for:**

- ▶ assigning a school staff member to serve as school coordinator;
- ▶ including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ▶ empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP representative and NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

## **The school coordinator will be responsible for:**

- ▶ confirming the scheduled assessment date with the NAEP State Coordinator;
- ▶ registering for the MyNAEP website and providing information about the school;
- ▶ overseeing the submission of an electronic list of fourth- or eighth-grade students;
- ▶ using the MyNAEP website to prepare for the assessment;
- ▶ informing parents of the assessment (more information will be provided on how to complete this task);
- ▶ communicating with the NAEP representative to finalize assessment preparations;
- ▶ organizing the availability of school space for the assessment, including room(s), desks or tables, and an adequate number of electrical outlets in the assessment location (the school will not need to provide Internet access); and
- ▶ collaborating with school staff to ensure a high rate of student participation.

## **Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent at the beginning of the school year.**



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