



Ensuring NAEP Integrity and Test Security

WHAT IS NAEP?

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

- ▶ NAEP, first administered in 1969, is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing.
- ▶ NAEP is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education.
- ▶ 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.

NAEP employs multiple security procedures in all NAEP assessments to protect the integrity of the results across the nation. The table below identifies some questions regarding possible threats to assessment security and explains how NAEP implements a set of quality control procedures in areas such as sampling and test administration to ensure a high level of test security.

NAEP Assessment Security Q&A

- ▶ How does NAEP ensure that a jurisdiction does not have only high-performing **schools** participate in an assessment?
 - ▶ Jurisdictions do not choose the sample of schools. NAEP selects the sample of schools from the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data, a comprehensive, annual, national statistical database of information concerning all public elementary and secondary schools. This ensures the sample is representative.
- ▶ How does NAEP ensure that a jurisdiction does not have only high-performing **students** participate in an assessment?
 - ▶ Jurisdictions do not choose the sample of students. From the sampled schools, NAEP collects lists of all students enrolled in the grades that are to be assessed and randomly selects students for participation.
 - ▶ Every student has the same chance of being chosen— regardless of race/ ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, status as an English language learner, grade point average, or any other factors.



For more information about various aspects of the assessment, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

NAEP Assessment Security Q&A

▶ How does NAEP ensure that a jurisdiction does not exclude all or many students with disabilities or English-language learners from the assessment?

▶ NAEP provides a standardized set of guidelines for jurisdictions to use when deciding which students will be excluded. NAEP's goal is to be as inclusive as possible. Inclusion rates are monitored by NAEP and reported to the public.

NAEP offers an array of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners to participate in the assessment.

http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp#accom_table

▶ Could teachers and students prepare for an assessment by studying or discussing questions ahead of time?

▶ Teachers and students do not see the test booklets or questions at any time before the assessment.

▶ Could classrooms be arranged so that lower-performing students are seated near high-performing students?

▶ Students seated next to each other are likely to be assessed on different subjects because multiple subjects are assessed in the same room.

http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/educators/update.asp#testing_session

There are multiple versions of subject booklets provided with different questions in each booklet. Therefore, even if students receive a test booklet for the same subject, the questions are likely different.

▶ Could proctors cue students to the correct answer on a question (e.g., through voice inflection or other verbal or nonverbal signals)?

▶ The administration of NAEP is conducted by federally contracted NAEP field staff and monitored by outside observers.

Questions and answer options are not read aloud unless the student is determined to require that accommodation.

For questions about this information, contact your NAEP Coordinator or use Contact NAEP at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp>.