



Talking Points

For Parents

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, is often called the gold standard of assessments and has been around since 1969. It's called The Nation's Report Card because it tells us how students across the country are doing. It is different from any of the other tests your child takes in school – including state assessments and even the SAT and ACT – because it represents all high school students in the United States, not just those in our state or those who plan to go on to college. As the largest national test, the results are found in the headlines of national and local news stories all over the country.

Why should I encourage my child to participate?

NAEP is a window into the state of our educational system and what students are learning. It opens the door for parents to understand how well children like theirs are doing compared to other students in participating large urban districts, other states, the nation, and the rest of the world. Your child has been selected to represent other students like him or her across the country. Not every student or every school takes the test, and your child can help to show the country just how much all our high school students know and can do in a variety of subjects. The results of NAEP help the President, Congress, and educators make informed decisions about how to improve our education system. When your child participates, he or she is making a difference.

What does my child have to do?

If your child is selected to participate in the assessment, he or she will need to be out of class for about 120 minutes. The results are anonymous and your child's grades won't be affected. We encourage students to get a good amount of sleep the night before and to eat breakfast that morning. Please encourage your child to do his or her best.

Where can I find more information on NAEP?

Visit The Nation's Report Card online at www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard and dig deeper into topics such as:

- How your child was selected
- NAEP accommodations
- NAEP scoring

Also, access the NAEP parent brochure at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2012469>.