## **NAEP and State Assessments**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and state assessments are both used to measure the academic progress of the nation's students. Understanding the similarities and differences between these assessments is critical to improving education in the United States.



## **NAEP**

## **State Assessments**

- Measures what the nation's students know and can do in various subjects
- Provides a common yardstick for states to measure student progress and gathers contextual information about students' educational experiences
- Designed to measure content frameworks developed by the National Assessment Governing Board, an independent, bipartisan organization



- **Purpose**
- Measure students' progress toward required knowledge and skills as set and defined by each state's content standards
- Comply with annual assessment requirements in reading/language arts and mathematics and periodic assessments in science

- A nationally representative sample of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 is asked to participate
- Student participation is voluntary, but highly encouraged
- Allows a broad range of accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners



- Participation may be required for all students in public schools
- Offer accommodations and modified assessments for students with disabilities and English language learners

- Assessments are administered in 90–120 minutes by NAEP staff on NAEP-provided equipment on one day
- Administered digitally, on tablets or laptops, or in paper-and-pencil format



- **Administration**
- Assessments range from being administered in a few hours to over the course of multiple days
- Administered digitally or in paper-and-pencil format

- Evaluates trends in student achievement over time by demographic groups for the nation, states, and some urban districts
- Used by policymakers, educators, the media, and the assessment community to develop ways to improve and report on education
- Results are not reported for individual students or schools



**Results and Uses** 

- Report state, district, school, and individual student results
- Used to set state education policy, examine school and group performance, and make local decisions about curriculum and instruction
- May be used as a measure of accountability for districts, schools, teachers, and students

## To learn more about NAEP visit: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard

All of the information provided by participants may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). By law, every National Center for Education Statistics (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 participants. Electronic submission of participant's 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.