

NAEP 2017 in Idaho

What is NAEP?

NAEP, or the **National Assessment of Educational Progress**, is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.

- ⇒ NAEP was first administered in 1969. It 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.
- ⇒ The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students within states, and across the country.
- ⇒ NAEP is considered the gold Standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. The assessment frameworks are developed with input from assessment specialists, education experts, teachers, and content specialists from around the nation.
- ⇒ NAEP monitors student progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally and on the state level.

How will districts/schools know they are in the 2017 NAEP sample for Idaho?

District superintendents of sampled Idaho schools will be sent letters of notification from Idaho's Director of Assessment, Cheryl Finley, in May of 2016. District test coordinators will be forwarded the same information.

Principals of sampled schools will be sent letters of notification from Kevin Whitman, Idaho's NAEP Coordinator, followed by scheduling letters.

When will the NAEP assessments be administered?

The NAEP 2017 assessment window is from **January 30 through March 10, 2017**. All operational and pilot assessments are scheduled within this window. All special studies are also scheduled during this window.

How are Idaho districts/schools selected for the sample?

A systematic sampling procedure is used in which identified groupings (e.g., school size/location, racial/ethnic composition of the schools, etc.) are considered to ensure that the sample is representative of all students in Idaho. Every student has the same chance of being chosen -regardless of race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability, status as an English language learner, or any other factors.

The NAEP sample is selected by a contractor with the United States Department of Education (Westat, Inc.) using the Common Core of Data (CCD).

What grade levels will be assessed?

NAEP 2017 assessments/pilots are administered in **grades 4 and 8**. Sampled schools may be selected for one or more grade levels.

What content areas are assessed?

NAEP 2017 operational and pilot assessments include mathematics, reading, writing, civics, geography, and U.S. history. A small number of schools may also be selected to participate in additional NAEP special studies. Each student selected for participation will take only one content area.

Most of the operational assessments will be conducted using tablets provided by NAEP. However, a small subset of students will take the mathematics or reading tests using a pencil and paper format to evaluate any differences in student performance between the two modes.

How long are the assessments?

The timing for NAEP 2017 assessments/pilots vary. Tablet assessments will include two sequential sessions of approximately 120 minutes each. Pencil and paper assessments will last approximately 90 minutes and must occur in a separate space from students taking the tablet sessions. These estimates include the time required for all instructions and the distribution and collection of testing materials. Schools may choose to use staggered dismissals for students taking NAEP's digitally-based assessments.

Who will administer the NAEP assessment?

Contractors with the United States Department of Education (Westat, Inc.) will administer the assessment materials before, during, and after the assessment. However, it is important that a teacher (or other certified staff member) be present during the assessment to assist with unexpected situations (e.g., child becomes ill during assessment, etc.)

Using NAEP in the Classroom

It is important to know that NAEP items can be used as a helpful educational resource in the classroom. Teachers can use actual NAEP items that have been released to see how a student's performance compares to national, state, and regional results on specific items.

Released NAEP items come with a scoring guide, sample student responses, and performance data by state. All of this information is provided in the NAEP Questions tool, which can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx/>

For additional information, contact Idaho's NAEP Coordinator, Kevin Whitman, at kwhitman@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6957.