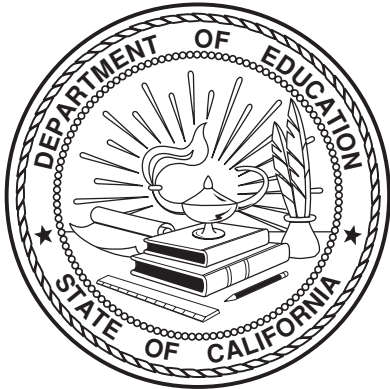

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



Preparing for NAEP 2011

Information for School District and School Staff

August 2010

Prepared by the
California Department of Education

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Introduction

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only ongoing, nationally representative assessment designed to evaluate what America's students know and can do in a variety of subjects such as reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Also known as the Nation's Report Card, NAEP was established by Congress in 1969 and is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, a division of the U.S. Department of Education.

Approximately 270 school districts and 900 schools in California have been selected to participate in NAEP during the 2010-11 school year (i.e., NAEP 2011). The primary purpose of this assistance packet is to prepare selected school districts and schools to participate in NAEP 2011, and to assist with the communication of key information to teachers, parents, guardians, and students.

Questions about any information in this packet should be directed to Jessica Valdez, NAEP State Coordinator, California Department of Education (CDE), by phone at 916-319-0332 or by e-mail at jvaldez@cde.ca.gov.

NAEP 2011 Overview

NAEP consists of assessments and special studies that vary from year to year. Page 16 of this packet contains a chart that displays the general schedule (i.e., NAEP At-a-Glance) for these assessments and special studies. The NAEP 2011 assessments window is January 24 – March 4, 2011.

Approximately 270 school districts and 900 schools in California have been selected to participate in NAEP 2011. The list of selected school districts is posted on the CDE NAEP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/nr/>. A more detailed description of the NAEP 2011 assessments, special studies, and a timeline of events is provided on the following pages.

NAEP 2011 Assessments

NAEP 2011 will include operational assessments in reading and mathematics for grades four and eight, science for grade eight, and writing for grades eight and twelve. Results will be provided at the state and national levels for reading, mathematics, and science and at the national level only for writing. Additionally, school districts that are part of the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program will receive district-level results for grades four and eight in reading and mathematics and grade eight in science. (See “Questions and Answers” for a description of the TUDA program.) Reading and mathematics results are expected to be released in fall 2011. Science and writing results are expected to be released in spring 2012.

NAEP 2011 will also include an economics pilot assessment for grade twelve students as well as several special studies for grades four and eight. Results for pilot assessments are not released to the public.

The table on page 7 (i.e., NAEP 2011 Timeline of Events) provides the timeline of key events that NAEP district and school coordinators should be aware of to prepare for NAEP 2011.

NAEP 2011 Special Studies

In addition to the NAEP assessments described above, the following special studies will be conducted in selected schools and districts:

- **The National Indian Education Study (grades four and eight)**
The purpose of the National Indian Education Study (NIES) is to examine the condition of education for American Indian and Alaskan Native students

in the United States. The study focuses on both the academic achievement and educational experiences of students in grades four and eight. Schools with American Indian or Alaska Native grade four or eight students in their NAEP sample will be asked to participate in the NIES Study. Participation involves student and school completion of a questionnaire.

- **Computer-Adaptive Mathematics Study (grade eight)**

The purpose of the grade eight computer-adaptive mathematics study is to explore how technology can be used to better assess students in mathematics. All students selected to participate in the study will take a NAEP mathematics assessment on a computer. Students will not know if they have the adaptive or non-adaptive version. In the adaptive version, student performance on the first block of questions will determine which of three difficulty blocks they are assigned next. The test-taking experience will be the same for students with the non-adaptive version, although their second block of questions will not be affected by results of their first block.

- **NAEP – TIMSS International Linking Study (grade eight)**

In 2011, both NAEP and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) will assess grade eight students in science and mathematics, allowing for the linkage of scores between the two assessments. The NAEP-TIMSS international linking study will project a state-level TIMSS score for each state based on its NAEP scores in grade eight science and mathematics. This will enable states to compare their performance to that of the over 60 countries that participate in TIMSS. Additionally, California is one of eight states selected to receive detailed subgroup-level TIMSS results for international comparison.

2011 International Assessments

In 2011, California will participate in two international assessments: TIMSS and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). Although these assessments are not part of NAEP, school districts will be notified of schools selected to participate in these studies at the same time they are notified for NAEP. The assessment window for the international assessments is April 4 – May 27, 2011.

- **TIMSS (grades four and eight)**

TIMSS is an international assessment and research project designed to measure trends in mathematics and science achievement of students in grades four and eight as well as school and teacher practices related to instruction. TIMSS provides valuable benchmark information on how U.S. students compare to students around the world and allow policymakers to examine other educational systems for practices that could help improve the

quality of education in the U.S. Administered every four years, TIMSS 2011 will be the fifth in the series and will include students from more than 60 countries.

- **PIRLS (grade four)**

PIRLS is an international assessment and research project designed to measure trends in grade four students' reading literacy achievement as well as school and teacher practices related to reading instruction. PIRLS complements what we learn from NAEP by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of students in reading relative to students around the world. Administered every 5 years, PIRLS 2011 will include students from more than 50 countries.

NAEP 2011 Timeline of Events

June 2010	School district superintendents receive notification from the NAEP State Coordinator of their school district's selection for NAEP 2011, including the list of sampled schools, and are asked to designate a NAEP district coordinator.
July 2010	NAEP district coordinators receive notification from the NAEP State Coordinator of their school district's selection for NAEP 2011, including a test date notification packet for distribution to each selected school.
August 2010	NAEP district coordinators receive from the NAEP State Coordinator a packet for each selected school with specific instructions for preparing for NAEP 2011, including designating a school coordinator.
September 2010	High schools receive the NAEP <i>Best Practices</i> guide to help improve the participation and motivation of grade twelve students.
August 2 – October 1, 2010	Window for school and school district registration on the MySchool Web site and submission of school information via the Provide School Information Web page on the MySchool Web site.* (Registration must be completed prior to submission of school information.)
October 4–29, 2010	Window for submission of school student list via the MySchool Web site.* (This list must be submitted by either the NAEP district or school coordinator.)
January – February 2011	Schools notify parents and guardians of their student's selection or possible selection to participate in NAEP 2011. (Notification should be provided at least two weeks before the assessment date and prior to the pre-assessment visit with NAEP field staff. Notification letter and newsletter insert templates are provided on pages 14 and 15 of this packet and are available electronically on the MySchool Web site.*)
January – February 2011	Window for NAEP field staff pre-assessment visits with NAEP school coordinators.
January 24 – March 4, 2011	NAEP 2011 assessment window (Schools are assigned a specific date within this window.)

*The MySchool Web site is located at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source).

Questions and Answers

What is the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)?

Often referred to as the Nation's Report Card, NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of what America's students know and can do in a variety of subjects. Federal law requires the development and administration of NAEP. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). NAEP includes a range of studies, which involve administering assessments, conducting surveys, and collecting other data in order to provide national and state-level reports about students' educational achievement and educational experiences; teachers' characteristics and practices; school climate; and other important educational variables.

What assessments and special studies are included in NAEP?

NAEP is a broad program that consists of the main NAEP assessments, the long-term trend assessments, and a number of special studies. The main NAEP assessments include operational and pilot tests in various subjects such as reading, writing, mathematics, and science and assess students in grades four, eight, and twelve. The long-term trend assessments focus on reading and mathematics skills of students' ages nine, thirteen, and seventeen. Results are used to monitor trends in student performance over time. The NAEP assessment schedule is available on the U.S. Department of Education NAEP Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/assessmentsched.asp> (Outside Source).

NAEP regularly includes special studies such as the High School Transcript Study (HSTS) and the National Indian Education Study (NIES). Additional information is available

on the NAEP Special Studies Web page at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/> (Outside Source).

How does NAEP differ from the California Standards Tests (CSTs)?

NAEP and the CSTs differ in purpose, content, format, scoring, and reporting. While both assessments provide valid information about student achievement, it is inappropriate to make direct comparisons of results. Further detail about the differences between NAEP and the CSTs is available on the California Department of Education (CDE) NAEP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/nr/>.

NAEP Participation

How are schools and students selected to participate in NAEP?

For the national NAEP assessments, NCES selects a random sample of schools and students to represent the geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity of the United States. For state NAEP assessments, a sample of schools and students is selected to represent each participating state.

How and when are school districts and schools notified that they have been selected to participate in NAEP?

Most school districts will be notified of their selected schools by the end of June, and most schools will be notified by the end of July. The NAEP State Coordinator will mail the initial notification to school district superintendents and request that a NAEP district coordinator be designated. The NAEP State Coordinator will then mail the designated district coordinator notification packets to be distributed to each selected school.

Is participation voluntary or mandatory?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires school districts that receive Title I funds to participate in the NAEP reading and mathematics assessments for grades four and eight. School participation in all other NAEP assessments is voluntary but all selected schools are encouraged to participate.

Each student selected to participate in NAEP represents many other similar students. While it is important that each selected student participate, student participation in NAEP is voluntary. Additionally, parents or guardians may exclude their children from NAEP testing for any reason.

What kinds of questions should students expect to see on the NAEP assessments?

The assessments may include multiple-choice questions; questions that call for short or extended written responses; performance tasks such as hands-on experiments; and questions that may require the use of calculators, rulers, atlases, or other materials. Most of the assessments are administered using paper and pencil, but some are administered on a computer. All materials needed for the test administration are provided to students by NAEP field staff.

Examples of the NAEP questions and tasks, including scoring guides, student performance information, and sample responses used in previous administrations are available on the NAEP Questions Tool Web page at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls/> (Outside Source).

How long does the assessment take?

Students selected to participate in NAEP are assessed in only one subject (e.g., reading, mathematics, or science). During the testing session, all students respond to test questions

and a short questionnaire designed to provide information about their educational environment. Participation generally takes between 90 and 120 minutes of a student's time. About 60 minutes of this time is allotted for students to complete the subject-specific part of the assessment. The remainder of the time is used for proctors to distribute and collect test materials and for students to complete a questionnaire about their experiences with the subject area of the test and other factors related to learning.

What can school districts and schools do to improve the participation of students?

School districts and schools may consider implementing the following strategies to improve the participation of students:

- Distribute reminder cards to students with the date, time, and location of NAEP testing. These cards are available from the NAEP field staff member who visits the school prior to testing.
- Conduct NAEP testing on a date that is not too close to the dates of other testing (e.g., CSTs, California High School Exit Examination).
- Ensure teachers and other school staff know which students need to be released for NAEP testing and the reporting location for these students.
- Offer grade twelve students community service credit for participating in the NAEP assessment. Certificates of Community Service are available from NAEP field staff.
- Review the NAEP *Best Practices* guide for ways to help improve the participation and motivation of grade twelve students. The NAEP *Best Practices* guides are sent to each participating high school in the fall.

Does NAEP provide accommodations for students with disabilities and English learners?

NAEP allows certain accommodations for students with disabilities and English learners. Most of the accommodations students receive on NAEP are the same as those provided on state or school district assessments. For a complete list of the accommodations allowed on NAEP, go to the Permitted NAEP Accommodations Tables at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp#accom_table (Outside Source).

NAEP Preparation Process

What is the role of the NAEP district coordinator?

The NAEP district coordinator is the key contact between the NAEP State Coordinator and the schools selected for participation within a school district. Among other responsibilities, the district coordinator will distribute NAEP information to schools; work with the NAEP school coordinator to prepare lists of eligible students; and ensure the NAEP school coordinator notifies the parents and guardians of the students selected for participation.

What is school staff asked to do?

The NAEP school coordinator has various administrative responsibilities that include working with the NAEP district coordinator; notifying parents and guardians of students selected for NAEP participation; and meeting with NAEP field staff to plan administration logistics. Some principals and teachers are asked to complete questionnaires about their educational backgrounds and practices, as well as their school's characteristics. Teachers of students with disabilities and English learners are asked to complete a worksheet for each participating student to determine appropriate testing accommodations. NAEP field staff will administer the assessment. Although school staff members are not required to remain in the testing

room during the test administration, schools are encouraged to have at least one staff member present in each testing room.

What are the parent and guardian notification requirements?

Prior to the test administration, schools must notify all parents or guardians of students selected to participate in NAEP. Federal law requires that parents and guardians be informed that they may exclude their children from participation in the test for any reason and that their children are not required to finish the test or answer all test questions. Parent and guardian notifications must be dated and copies made available as follows:

- A copy of the dated notification must be provided to the NAEP field staff during the NAEP field staff meeting which takes place prior to the test administration date.
- A copy of parent and guardian letters must be kept on file at the school site.

CDE will require e-mail confirmation that the parent and guardian notification has been handled as required.

Modifiable Word templates of NAEP 2011 parent and guardian notification letters and newsletter inserts are available in English and several other languages on the MySchool Web site at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source).

Schools selected for NAEP participation are requested to release information about student participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Are schools authorized to release this information?

Yes. Under the legislation that authorized the NSLP, Congress allows disclosure of NSLP participation for selected programs, including

NAEP. An explanation of this policy can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contracts/pdf/g4_8_ac.pdf (Outside Source). Additionally, participating schools can access a letter of permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the MySchool Web site at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source).

NAEP Results

When are NAEP assessment results available?

NAEP results are typically released between six months and one year after the administration of the assessments. All reports are posted on the NAEP Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> (Outside Source). In addition, customized analyses of NAEP data can be conducted using the NAEP Data Explorer at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nde/viewresults.asp> (Outside Source). California-specific reports are available on the CDE NAEP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/nr/>.

At what levels are NAEP results reported?

NAEP results are reported at the national and state levels, as well as at the district level for school districts that are part of the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program. The TUDA program is an ongoing study of the performance of fourth and eighth grade students at the school district level on NAEP in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Three California school districts are part of the TUDA program: Fresno Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District, and San Diego Unified School District.

National-level results are released every year, and state and TUDA-level results are released every two years.

Are NAEP results ever available for individual schools or students?

No. Since only a sample of students from each school participates in the assessment, results at the school level would not be considered valid. Additionally, NAEP assessments use a matrix design in which each sampled student takes only part of the assessment. Results for individual students cannot be reported because the subsets of items in each booklet are not directly comparable and are too few to yield reliable results at the individual student level.

Are individual student results confidential?

Yes. Student names are removed from answer documents, so it is not possible to identify individual students.

How are NAEP results used?

NAEP results are released as The Nation's Report Card. It is common for each state's performance on NAEP to be presented in comparison with that of other states and the nation. Educators, policy makers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in America.

More Information

Additional information about NAEP is available on the NCES Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> (Outside Source) or by contacting Jessica Valdez, NAEP State Coordinator, CDE, at jvaldez@cde.ca.gov or at 916-319-0332.

District Coordinator Responsibility Checklist

Directions: This checklist is intended to assist NAEP district coordinators in preparing for NAEP 2011 at their school(s). Customize a checklist for each selected school by filling in the blanks with school-specific information. Check off tasks as they are completed.

School Name: _____ NAEP 2011 Test Date: _____

NAEP School Coordinator Name: _____

NAEP School Coordinator Phone Number: _____

August 2010:

- Review the contents of the August mailing from the NAEP State Coordinator and the *Preparing for NAEP 2011* information packet on the California Department of Education NAEP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/nr/>.
- Identify the NAEP school coordinator and distribute the school packet from the August mailing.
- Confirm that the NAEP school coordinator is aware of the NAEP test date and that the date has been placed on the school calendar.

August 2 – October 1, 2010:

- Register on the MySchool Web site. Go to <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source) and click on REGISTER if a new user. A registration ID number is included in the August mailing from the NAEP State Coordinator.
- Ensure that the school has correctly provided the required school information via the MySchool Web site.* (The district coordinator may submit this information on behalf of the school.) Deadline: October 1, 2010.

October 4–29, 2010:

- Ensure that the school has correctly compiled and submitted the required student list via the MySchool Web site.* (The NAEP district coordinator may submit this list on behalf of the school.) Deadline: October 29, 2010.

1 Month Before Test Date:

- Follow up with the NAEP school coordinator to verify the pre-assessment meeting with NAEP field staff has been scheduled.

2–3 Weeks Before Test Date:

- Follow up with the NAEP school coordinator to make sure the required school-level responsibilities are being carried out.
- Ensure that each NAEP school coordinator has notified parents and guardians of all students eligible for NAEP participation via either a dated letter or newsletter insert.

Day of the NAEP Administration:

- Be available to answer questions from the NAEP school coordinator, NAEP field staff, and parents and guardians. Be available to assist the school coordinator if needed.
- Attend the post-assessment meeting between NAEP field staff and the NAEP school coordinator. (Optional)
- Notify the NAEP State Coordinator of any serious concerns or problems that arose during the NAEP test administration.

*The MySchool Web site is located at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source).

School Coordinator Responsibility Checklist

Directions: This checklist is intended to assist NAEP school coordinators in preparing for NAEP 2011 at their school(s). To customize this checklist, fill in the blanks with school and district-specific information. Check off tasks as they are completed.

School Name: _____ NAEP 2011 Test Date: _____

NAEP District Coordinator Name: _____

NAEP District Coordinator Phone Number: _____

August 2010:

- Review the contents of the August school packet from the NAEP State Coordinator and the *Preparing for NAEP 2011* information packet on the California Department of Education NAEP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/nr/>.
- Ensure that the school's NAEP test date is indicated on the school calendar.

August 2 – October 1, 2010:

- Register on the MySchool Web site. Go to <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source) and click on REGISTER if a new user. Registration ID is included in the August school packet from the NAEP State Coordinator.
- Submit the required school information via the Provide School Information Web page on the MySchool Web site.* Deadline: October 1, 2010.

October 4–29, 2010:

- Submit the list of all students in the sampled grade via the MySchool Web site.* Deadline: October 29, 2010.

2–3 Weeks Before Test Date:

- Review contents of the pre-assessment packet sent by NAEP field staff.
- Notify parents and guardians about NAEP participation via a dated letter or newsletter insert. Notification letter and newsletter insert templates are available on the MySchool Web site.*

- Distribute and collect completed school and staff questionnaires, and make copies of parent and guardian notification letters or newsletter inserts. Prepare a folder for these materials.
- Distribute and collect worksheets from the teachers of selected students with disabilities and English learners to ensure appropriate accommodations have been identified.
- Meet with NAEP field staff for a pre-assessment visit to discuss appropriate NAEP testing preparation, provide an updated list of enrolled students in the sampled grade, and provide completed students with disabilities and English learner worksheets.

Day of the NAEP Administration:

- Provide the folder of completed questionnaires and letters to NAEP field staff.
- Review student dismissal plan with NAEP field staff.
- Make sure all students attend the appropriate testing session.
- Answer questions and handle any emergency situations that may arise during testing.
- Notify the NAEP district coordinator of any serious concerns or problems that arose during testing.
- Meet with NAEP field staff after testing to ensure that all materials are accounted for and complete an evaluation survey.

*The MySchool Web site is located at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (Outside Source).

NAEP 2011 Parent and Guardian Notification Letter Template – English*

Directions:

Before this letter is distributed, insert the information required, as indicated by bold type in parentheses.

(Insert Month, Day, and Year)**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am pleased to announce that our school has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Also known as *The Nation's Report Card*, NAEP was established by Congress in 1969 and is a program conducted by the U.S. Department of Education. Since state assessments vary, NAEP is the only ongoing study that provides the nation with an overall picture of student achievement in various academic areas.

Your child (**has been/may be**) selected to be part of a representative group of grade (**insert four, eight, or twelve**) students selected from our school to participate in NAEP this school year. In our school, the NAEP assessment will take place on (**insert date**). (*Select text for appropriate grade – Grade four: Students will be assessed in reading or mathematics. Grade eight: Students will be assessed in reading, writing, mathematics, or science. Grade twelve: Most students will be assessed in writing, but some students will be selected as part of a pilot test in economics.*) The assessment will take about 90-120 minutes for students to complete. In addition to completing a test in one subject area, students will be asked some questions about their experiences with the subject area of the test and other factors related to learning. There is no need for students to study in preparation for NAEP.

Participation in NAEP is voluntary and confidential. Students will not be required to finish the test or to answer all test questions. Names of students taking part in NAEP will not be recorded, and your child's grades or progress in school will not be affected by participating. Results from this year's administration of NAEP will be reported for the nation, state, and certain large urban school districts.

If you would like more information about NAEP, including sample test questions, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> (Outside Source). If you do not want your child to participate in NAEP or if you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact (**insert name of school coordinator**) at (**insert telephone number of school coordinator**).

By taking part in NAEP, students help to improve public education, ensuring that all students receive the education they deserve. We appreciate the participation of every student who is selected. Thank you for your assistance!

Sincerely,

(insert name of school principal), Principal

* Electronic copies of the NAEP 2011 Parent and Guardian Notification Letter Template are available in English and several other languages on the MySchool Web site at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (outside source).

** Important Note: In order to use this document to meet the NAEP parent and guardian notification requirement, it must be dated.

NAEP 2011 School/Home Newsletter Insert Template – English*

Directions: Before this newsletter is distributed, insert the information required, as indicated by bold type in parentheses.

(Insert Month and Year)**

NAEP 2011 in Our School

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, is the only ongoing, national study designed to provide national and state information on the performance of America's students in reading, mathematics, and other key subject areas. The NAEP will be administered to a sample of grade **(insert four, eight, or twelve)** students in our school on **(insert date)**.

Student Participation

Participation in NAEP takes between 90 and 120 minutes of a student's time. Student participation in NAEP is voluntary and confidential. Students are not required to finish the test or to answer all test questions, and the names of students taking part in NAEP are not recorded. The participation of every student selected is important to ensure the accuracy of the information collected through this program. Parents and guardians may excuse their children from participating by notifying the school contact shown below.

Test Content

(Select text for appropriate grade – Grade four: Students will be assessed in reading or mathematics. **Grade eight:** Students will be assessed in reading, writing, mathematics, or science. **Grade twelve:** Most students will be assessed in writing, but some students will be selected as part of a pilot test in economics.) In addition to completing a test in one subject area, students will be asked some questions about their experiences with the subject area of the test and other factors related to learning. Students do not need to study in preparation for NAEP.

Score Reports

NAEP does not provide reports of results for individual schools or students. Results from this year's administration of NAEP will be reported for the nation, state, and certain large urban school districts.

More Information

If you would like more information about NAEP, including sample test questions, please visit the United States Department of Education Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> (Outside Source). If you do not want your child to participate in NAEP or if you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact (insert name of school coordinator) at (insert telephone number of school coordinator).

* Electronic copies of the NAEP 2011 School/Home Newsletter Insert Template are available in English and several other languages on the MySchool Web site at <http://www.mynaep.com/> (outside source).

** Important Note: In order to use this document to meet the NAEP parent and guardian notification requirement, it must be dated.

NAEP At-a-Glance

The chart below presents the typical schedule of the assessments and special studies that make up the NAEP program. Subjects and grades assessed, as well as reporting schedules, vary depending on available funding and the impact of frameworks revisions and special studies.

	Main NAEP		Long-Term Trend	Pilot Tests and Special Studies
	National	State/TUDA [†]		
Goal	To report the national and regional educational achievement in selected subjects.	To facilitate self-monitoring by states in selected subjects and to serve as a tool to compare subgroup performance within and between states.	To track changes over time in educational achievement by monitoring trend lines first set in the 1970s.	<p>Pilot tests: To collect data on new test items and determine if suitable for use on a main NAEP assessment.</p> <p>Special studies: Goal varies depending on the study. Information about specific studies is available on the NAEP Special Studies Web page at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/ (Outside Source).</p>
Subject or Focus*	Reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, geography, civics, economics, and the arts	Reading and mathematics; science and writing	Reading and mathematics	<p>Pilot tests: All subjects</p> <p>Special studies: Focus varies depending on the study</p>
Grade or Age	Grades 4, 8, and 12	Grades 4 and 8	Ages 9, 13, and 17	Grades 4, 8, and/or 12
Test Session Length	90–120 minutes	90 minutes	90 minutes	90–120 minutes
Assessment/ Study Schedule	Subjects vary year to year (January through March)	<p>Reading and mathematics: every two years in odd-numbered years</p> <p>Writing and science: every four years in odd-numbered years</p> <p>(January through March)</p>	<p>Every four years in even numbered years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 9 – January through March • Age 17 – March through May • Age 13 – October through December 	Variable
General Reporting Schedule	1 year after administration	6 months after administration	1 year after administration	Varies for special studies. Results from pilot tests are not released

* NAEP content frameworks, which show the range of content and skills targeted, are available on the NAEP Nation's Report Card Web page at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp> (Outside Source). This Web page includes frameworks for reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, geography, civics, economics, foreign language, and the arts.

[†] TUDA: Trial Urban District Assessment

Resources Available on the Internet

Information	Web Site / Page Address
California Department of Education NAEP Web Page	http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/nr/ This Web page contains a link to the MySchool Web site, a list of school districts selected for NAEP participation, a link to the latest NAEP results for California, and access to the latest <i>Preparing for NAEP 2011</i> information packet.
U.S. Department of Education NAEP Web Site	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/ (Outside Source) This Web site provides access to a range of information about NAEP including a program overview and assessment schedule; frameworks for the subjects assessed; released questions; and assessment and special study results.
MySchool Web Site	http://www.myschool.com/ (Outside Source) This secure Web site is available only to school districts and schools that have been selected to participate in NAEP. A registration identification number is required to register and access information on this Web site.
NAEP Data Explorer	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/ (Outside Source) This secure Web page allows users to customize analyses of aggregate NAEP data, including assessment results and student background questionnaire data.
NAEP Released Questions	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrsl/ (Outside Source) This Web page contains links to released questions from previous NAEP administrations, as well as tools that can be used to gain additional insight into the content of the assessment.
Sample Questions Booklets	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp (Outside Source) This Web page contains general information booklets, available in downloadable Portable Document Format (PDF). Booklets include descriptions of each test, test directions, questionnaires, and sample questions.
NAEP Frameworks	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp (Outside Source) Developed by the National Assessment Governing Board, the NAEP frameworks provide information on the skills and concepts targeted by the NAEP assessments.
Information for Parents and Guardians	http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents/ (Outside Source) This Web page provides parents and guardians with information about NAEP. Information is available in English and Spanish.