

GRADE 4 WRITING COMPUTER-BASED ASSESSMENT

NAEP In Your School

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.
- ▶ 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 will be administered to a sample of fourth-grade students in your school between January 23 and March 2, 2012. Students will participate in a pilot study for the writing computer-based assessment. This study will be used to prepare for the NAEP 2013 assessments. This fact sheet will help you prepare your school and students for participation.

In 2012, for the first time, fourth-graders who are selected to take NAEP will be asked to participate in the writing computer-based assessment. The move from paper-and-pencil writing assessments to a computer-based format reflects changes in today's society and technology.

Students will be evaluated on their ability to write using a computer, and the assessment is designed to take advantage of many features of current digital technology, such as word processing software. The computer-based writing tasks are delivered in multimedia formats, such as short videos and audio.

What is involved?

Students will spend approximately 120 minutes completing the assessment, including answering subject-area questions and questions about themselves and their educational experiences, such as the amount of writing they do on their own and how often they use a computer for various writing activities.

Information will be collected about how selected students with disabilities and English language learners (SD/ELL) might participate in the assessment.

Principals and English language arts teachers will also be asked to complete a questionnaire. The school principal will complete a questionnaire designed to gather information about school characteristics. Teacher questionnaires are designed to help provide contextual information for the assessments, as well as information about factors that may be related to students' learning.

NAEP staff members will bring all necessary materials, including laptop computers and earbuds, to the school on assessment day. Schools will only need to provide rooms, desks or tables, and access to electrical outlets; schools do not have to provide Internet access.



For more information about NAEP, visit:
<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

How many students are assessed?

Nationally, approximately 12,600 students will be assessed in grade 4. About 30 students at each school will be selected to participate. The pilot assessment will be administered in two sequential sessions of about 15 students each.

Who is responsible for coordinating and administering NAEP?

Your NAEP State Coordinator, NAEP field staff members, and school staff will work together to coordinate the assessment. The NAEP field staff members will be responsible for administering the assessment.

A staff person in your school will need to be assigned to serve as the school coordinator, who will be the primary contact in the school for the assessment.

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your state Department of Education and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- ▶ Communicating with principals to convey the facts about NAEP and the importance of student participation;
- ▶ Providing schools with instructions for preparing a list of eligible students (if required) and information about notifying parents of participating students;
- ▶ Providing guidance for including SD/ELL students; and
- ▶ Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

NAEP staff members are employed by a U.S. Department of Education contractor to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- ▶ Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of eligible students;
- ▶ Sending a Preassessment Packet of information to the school coordinator;
- ▶ Visiting the school coordinator shortly after the Preassessment Packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements;

- ▶ Bringing all assessment materials, including laptop computers, to the school on the scheduled day; and
- ▶ Conducting the assessment.

Each principal will be responsible for:

- ▶ Assigning a staff member to serve as school coordinator;
- ▶ Including the NAEP assessment date on the school calendar;
- ▶ Empowering the designated school coordinator to work with the NAEP staff and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- ▶ Informing school staff and students about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The school coordinator will be responsible for:

- ▶ Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the suggested assessment date is convenient for the school;
- ▶ Providing NAEP with an electronic file of eligible students, if requested;
- ▶ Informing parents of the assessment (the NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished);
- ▶ Receiving the Preassessment Packet and making final preparations for the assessment;
- ▶ Meeting with the NAEP staff during the scheduled preassessment visit;
- ▶ Coordinating the inclusion of SD/ELL students; and
- ▶ Ensuring that there is a plan with school staff to achieve high participation of students at the assessment.

Detailed information about the school coordinator's responsibilities will be sent at the beginning of the school year.