

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Description of the test:

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is a federally administered assessment of student achievement. Schools and students are randomly selected to participate in this assessment. Every other year, NAEP assesses reading and mathematics in grades 4, 8, and 12. Results are only provided at the state level. No district or individual student results are produced.

Why is the test given?

NAEP provides an indicator of overall national student achievement. It also provides an opportunity to compare achievement between states.

Who participates in the test?

Schools and students are randomly selected to participate. Each student only participates in a portion of the assessment.

When are the results available?

Overall state results are typically available 6 months after the assessment. State and National results are released at the same time by the United States Department of Education.

How are the results used?

- At the national level results are used to monitor trends in student academic achievement.
- At the state level results are used to confirm achievement trends on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam.

How are the results communicated to the community?

Numerous press releases are done when the results are available. State reports and additional information can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.