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The Role of NAEP in Connecticut: A Brief History and a Look to the Future

Renee A. Savoie, NAEP State Coordinator
CSDE Bureau of Student Assessment
Phone: 860.713.6858
Email: renee.savoie@ct.gov
What is NAEP? (pronounced "Nape")

- National Assessment of Educational Progress
- Nation’s Report Card
- Established by Congress in 1969 to answer questions about student academic performance
- The Nation’s ONLY monitor of what students know and can do
  - “common yardstick”
- “Survey” design
  - National, regional and state-level results
- Administered annually (late January- early March).
Overall NAEP Components

The National Assessment of Educational Progress

- **MAIN**
  - National Public & Private Grades 4, 8 & 12
  - District – Trial [TUDA] (Public—Grades 4 & 8)

- **LONG-TERM TREND**
  - National Public & Private 9, 13 & 17 yr olds

- **State (Public) (Grades 4, 8, & 12*)**
## NAEP Schedule of Assessments

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>State</th>
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| 2009 | Reading, Mathematics, Science (4, 8, 12)  
      | High School Transcript Study | Reading (4, 8, 12*)  
      | Math (4, 8, 12*) | Science (4, 8) |
| 2010 | U.S. History, Civics, Geography (4, 8, 12) |  |
| 2011 | Reading, Math (4, 8)  
      | Science (8)  
      | Computer-based Writing (8, 12) | Reading & Math (4, 8)  
      | Science (8) |  |
| 2012 | Economics (12)  
      | Long-term Trend |  |
| 2013 | Reading, Mathematics (4, 8, 12)  
      | Computer-based Writing (4) | Reading & Math (4, 8, 12) |
| 2014 | U.S. History, Civics, Geography (4, 8, 12)  
      | Technology & Engineering Literacy (8) |  |
NAEP has a long history in CT.

State-level NAEP

- CT has participated in state-level NAEP since it was first administered in 1990.
- Our State passed a law in 1990 requiring districts to participate in NAEP if selected.
  - C.G.S. Section 10-239i
- Beginning in 2003, *No Child Left Behind* required all states and school districts receiving federal Title I funds to participate in biennial NAEP reading and mathematics assessments in Grades 4 and 8.
  - There are additional assessments in which States can agree to participate.
  - CT has maintained consistent participation in additional subjects.
What questions can we answer with Grade 4 and 8 NAEP data?

- To what extent has CT student achievement changed over time?
- How well have CT students performed relative to their peers across the country?
- How well have our major subgroups performed over time and in comparison to their peers?
NAEP 2009 Grade 4 Mathematics: Proficiency Rates
NAEP 2009 Grade 8 Mathematics: Proficiency Rates

[Map of the United States with states colored to represent different levels of proficiency according to the legend provided.]
NAEP 2009 Grade 8 Reading: Proficiency Rates
Who participates in NAEP?

- Every public school has a chance of being selected.
- Each school’s probability of selection is strongly related to size (enrollment in tested grade).
  - Larger schools have a higher probability of being selected.
  - If the school’s enrollment in the tested grade represents 1% of Connecticut’s public school population at the same grade, school selected with certainty
- Other factors in school selection
  - “School location”, demographic data, and school level results on CMT/CAPT.
  - Prior participation in NAEP unrelated to sampling
  - “Clean slate” for every administration
- Random sample of students from selected schools
What are students asked to do?

• Every student takes two 25-minute cognitive item “blocks.”
  – Slightly longer for computer-based assessments

• Students respond to a variety of background questions related to student achievement.
  – Non-cognitive data about students, their classroom experiences, and educational support
  – Provides context for reporting student performance

• 90 minute testing session
  – Exception: computer-based assessments (~120 min)
NAEP data include contextual information.

- Background Questionnaires for Schools, Teachers, and Students
- An example from NAEP 2009 (school version)
  - To what extent is your school's English/language arts program structured according to commercially designed programs?
    - Not at all (39%)
    - Small extent (47%)
    - Moderate extent (9%)
    - Large extent (4%)
What is the relationship between CMT/CAPT and NAEP?

- **Content**
  - Fewer standards assessed on CMT/CAPT

- **Format**
  - Multiple-choice and constructed response items

- **Purposes/Uses**

- **Reporting**
  - Achievement standards defined differently and set independently
  - Aspirational vs. grade-level standards
What is the meaning of “proficient”?

- “Proficient achievement is defined by NAGB as ‘solid academic performance exhibiting competency over challenging subject matter.’”
- “In particular, it is important to understand clearly that the Proficient achievement level does not refer to ‘at grade’ performance.”
- “Nor is performance at the Proficient level synonymous with ‘proficiency’ in the subject. That is, students who may be considered proficient in a subject, given the common usage of the term, might not satisfy the requirements for performance at the NAEP achievement level.”

How is NAEP used in Connecticut?

- The frameworks and released items inform development in CT.
- NAEP provides the public with an outside check on state achievement trends.
- The media (state and national) focus on these results, which influences public opinion.
- Advocacy groups use the data to further their arguments and garner support from policymakers and the legislature.
NAEP is evolving and expanding.

- Grade 12 **State-level** NAEP administered for the first time in 2009
  - A pilot of process, not content
  - CT was one of 11 participating states

- Computer-based assessments
  - National results
  - Special studies

- International Benchmarking
What states participated in Grade 12 State NAEP?

1. Arkansas  
2. Connecticut  
3. Florida  
4. Idaho  
5. Illinois  
6. Iowa  
7. Massachusetts  
8. New Hampshire  
9. New Jersey  
10. South Dakota  
11. West Virginia
What can we expect from Grade 12 State NAEP?

- Grade 12 results will be a component of our baseline in measuring progress of our secondary school reform efforts.
  - Reading and Mathematics results at the State-level to be reported in November

- “Preparedness” Reports
  - Research underway to determine the alignment between NAEP and the skills and knowledge necessary for credit-bearing college courses and job-training programs.
NAEP is leading states with technology.

- Interactive computer tasks for Science
- Computer-based writing
  - Not simply a computer-delivered writing assessment
  - Incorporates principles of universal design
  - Developed with future state use in mind (no proprietary software)
- Computer-based adaptive testing in mathematics
- Technology & Engineering Literacy
NAEP/TIMSS link will provide new information for Connecticut.

- Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)
- Math and Science administered for NAEP and TIMSS in 2010
- All states participating in a linking study
  - State-level projected scores to compare against international benchmarks
- Eight states selected to validate the linking study at federal expense
  - State-level TIMSS actual results
  - In 2007, states paid $500,000 to participate
Where can I find additional NAEP resources?

- CSDE  [www.sde.ct.gov/sde](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde)
  - Click on Student Assessment
  - Click on National Assessment
  - Click on National Assessment of Educational Progress

- NAEP Frameworks on the National Assessment Governing Board website  [www.nagb.org](http://www.nagb.org)
  - Click on Publications
  - Click on Frameworks and Specifications
The NAEP Questions Tool (NQT)

- Online access to 2000+ released NAEP items in a variety of subjects over many years

- Teachers use the NQT ...
  - to see models of well-designed items measuring the same content taught in their classrooms;
  - as a starting point when building common assessments; and
  - to reflect on the performance of the students in their classrooms in comparison to students statewide and across the nation.

http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls/
The NAEP Data Explorer (NDE)

- A web-based application for accessing NAEP data.
- Allows users to create statistical tables, charts, and maps.
- Explore NAEP data spanning several decades
  - Main NAEP
  - Long-term Trend NAEP
  - High School Transcript Study

Questions/Comments