



The NAEP 12th Grade Preparedness Commission

The Mission

Appointed by the National Assessment Governing Board, the Commission is to increase awareness of the importance of preparing students academically for postsecondary education or training for employment after high school, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The Commission will

- Study and organize NAEP results and Governing Board sponsored research on the academic achievement of 12th grade students and the relation of these results to students' preparedness for postsecondary education or training for the workforce;
- Develop a communications strategy that directs attention to these results and findings;
- Communicate with the public, policy makers, educators and potential employers on the results and findings;
- Conduct meetings, organize presentations, hold public hearings and meet individually with groups and individuals;
- Review the effectiveness of the communications strategy through interactions with policy makers, business and community organizations, the media and other interested organizations;
- Report to the Governing Board on the strategy and on suggestions for continuing communications activities.

Commission Structure

The Commission has nine members, including two members of the Governing Board. Members are drawn from the ranks of those who receive 12th grade students (e.g., colleges, training programs, business) and from those in the K-12 system that produces 12th graders.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

NAEP, also referred to as The Nation's Report Card, is the only continuing nationally representative and state-comparable measure of achievement in core subjects over time at grades 4, 8, and 12. Funded by Congress since 1969, NAEP compares performance among states, urban districts, public and private schools, and student demographic groups, and informs the public about elementary and secondary student achievement.

Under the guidance of the National Assessment Governing Board, NAEP is being transformed to report on the academic preparedness of 12th grade students for entry into college and postsecondary training for occupations.

As the only source of nationally representative data on 12th grade student achievement, NAEP is uniquely positioned to serve as an indicator of 12th grade students' academic preparedness for postsecondary education and training.

The National Assessment Governing Board

The Governing Board is an independent, bipartisan organization created by Congress in 1988 to set policy for NAEP. The Board's 26 members are appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education and include governors, state legislators, local and state officials, educators and researchers, business representatives, and members of the general public.

The Governing Board oversees NAEP, identifies subjects to be tested, determines test content, sets performance standards called achievement levels for each assessment, approves test questions, and releases NAEP results in The Nation's Report Card. The Board also works to improve the reporting of results to make sure they are communicated effectively to a wide range of the American public.