

Frequently Asked Questions

Serving on the National Assessment Governing Board

What does the Governing Board do?

The independent, nonpartisan National Assessment Governing Board sets policy for the nation's largest ongoing assessment of what U.S. students know and can do – the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card. The Governing Board identifies subjects to be tested, determines the content and achievement levels for each assessment, approves test questions, hosts the release of NAEP results, and pursues innovative ways to make those results more meaningful and relevant to the public and empower policymakers and educators to use that data as a tool for student improvement. Read more about the Board's [roles and responsibilities](#).

What will the Governing Board be working on over the next few years?

The Governing Board will conduct the release of two NAEP reports in 2027: Reading and Math, Grades 4 and 8 (national, state, and urban district) and Civics and U.S. History, Grade 8 (national). The Board is also spearheading [Next Gen NAEP](#), an initiative to modernize and improve NAEP's development, analysis, reporting, and dissemination. Additionally, the Board is updating the [NAEP Civics Framework](#) that will shape content of assessments in 2028 and beyond; and offering states [the opportunity to participate in state-level NAEP](#) in additional subjects and grades starting in 2028. The Board will also continue partnering with key stakeholders to best use NAEP data to support education leaders committed to helping our students and teachers improve performance.

What is the composition of the Governing Board?

Broadly representative [by law](#), the non-partisan Governing Board includes 26 members. Of those, 25 are appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Education in the following categories:

- two governors, or former governors, who are not members of the same political party;
- two state legislators, who are not members of the same political party;
- two chief state school officers;
- one superintendent of a local educational agency;
- one member of a state board of education;
- one member of a local board of education;
- three classroom teachers representing the grade levels at which the NAEP is conducted;
- one representative of business or industry;
- two curriculum specialists;
- three testing and measurement experts;
- one non-public school administrator or policymaker;
- two school principals, one from the elementary level, the other from the secondary level;
- two parents who are not employed by a local, state, or federal educational agency;
- two additional members who are representatives of the general public, but who are not employed by a local, state, or federal educational agency.

The director of the [Institute of Education Sciences](#) serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

What positions are open for this cycle?

The Board is seeking candidates for the following positions for service that begins Oct. 1, 2027:

- Business Representative
- Chief State School Officer
- Curriculum Specialist

- General Public Representative
- Local Superintendent
- State School Board Member
- Testing and Measurement Expert
- Twelfth-Grade Teacher

Is it acceptable to nominate yourself for the Governing Board?

Yes. Most of the nominations the Governing Board receives are self-nominations.

What are the submission requirements? Are there page limits for submission materials?

Nominees must submit a personal statement; curriculum vitae or resume; and at least one letter of support, but not more than three. Personal statements should be no more than two pages, and curricula vitae or resumes should be no more than six pages. We will accept nominations starting Sept. 8, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Nov. 15, 2026, for appointments that begin Oct. 1, 2027.

If a nominee needs to update materials or receives another letter support after submitting their application, can they edit their submission?

Yes, submissions can be edited up until the final deadline of 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Nov. 15, 2026.

How are new Board members appointed?

The Board's Nominations Committee solicits nominations, reviews all submissions, and makes recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education, who appoints members to serve on the Board.

What are the terms of service on the Governing Board and when do those terms begin?

Board members are seated for terms that last up to four years and may serve up to two terms, so a potential maximum of eight years. New or renewed terms begin on the first of October.

What is the typical time commitment a Board member makes?

The bulk of Board member time is spent preparing for and participating in [quarterly Board meetings](#). Generally, the meetings take place all day Thursday and half day Friday, necessitating travel on Wednesday, and a few hours of preparation time per meeting is expected. Members can expect a time commitment of up to 12 days per year including travel. Between quarterly meetings, committees may hold occasional 1-2-hour Zoom meetings. Members sometimes attend events in person or virtually on behalf of the Board, estimated to be no more than three days per year.

Board members also serve on a standing committee. Committee meetings are typically part of the quarterly meetings, but committees may hold additional conference calls or virtual meetings to conduct Board business. The time commitment for these committee activities typically ranges from one to four hours per month. Board members also may serve on the Nominations Committee or any ad hoc committees, which requires additional time for preparation and participation.

What committees do Board members serve on?

Board members are assigned to serve on the assessment standards, design, and methodology committee; the assessment development committee; or the reporting and dissemination committee. In addition, members may also serve on the Nominations Committee or on any ad hoc committees that are occasionally established to focus on specific initiatives. All committee chairs and vice chairs sit on the Executive Committee.

Do Board members receive an honorarium?

Depending on the rules in each Board member's state, district, or organization, they may be eligible for an honorarium of \$100 per day.

If I'm a teacher member, does the Board pay for substitutes to lead my class during my absence?

Yes. The Board covers the costs of substitute teachers your school will need to use while you attend meetings.

Where are Board meetings held?

Typically, three meetings per year are held in the Washington D.C. area, with the other meeting held in the home city or state of a current Board member.

Are Board members responsible for their own travel and expenses to attend meetings or other Board-related events?

No, all travel and expenses are arranged and paid for by the Governing Board.

Still have questions about serving on the Board? Email nagbnominations@ed.gov.