

NAEP

# High School Transcript Study

2019

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card, collects not only assessment data but also data about curricula and course-taking patterns in our nation's public and private high schools through the High School Transcript Study.**

The High School Transcript Study has collected transcript data periodically for more than three decades, with the first collection in 1987. The study includes information on the types of courses that graduates take during high school, how many credits they earn, their grade point averages (GPAs), and since 1990, their NAEP performance.

The transcript study captures changes in high school graduates' course-taking experiences. Understanding these patterns and how they have changed over time can help answer important questions about educational access, rigor, and achievement.



## DESIGN OF THE NAEP HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT STUDY

The NAEP High School Transcript Study collects information from a nationally representative sample of high schools and students. Transcripts are collected for students who graduated from public and private high schools that participated in NAEP and includes only those students who graduated the year that the study was conducted. For the 2019 High School Transcript Study, transcripts were collected for 47,000 students who graduated in 2019 from a nationally representative sample of 1,400 schools. The study compares 2019 results to results from 1990, 2000, and 2009, covering 10-year increments. It also links graduates' course-taking patterns to their performance on grade 12 NAEP mathematics and science assessments in 1990, 2000, 2005, 2009, and 2019.

## HOW DATA IS REPORTED

The High School Transcript Study reports:

- Average number of credits that high school graduates earn in major subject areas,
- Graduates' average GPAs,
- Percentage of graduates completing various levels of curriculum, and
- The relationship between graduates' coursetaking patterns and NAEP performance.

The High School Transcript Study results can be explored by student characteristics, such as gender and race/ethnicity, and by course-level characteristics, for example, in which grade a course was taken and course type (i.e., regular, advanced, honors).

## DEFINING CURRICULUM LEVELS

**Curriculum levels in this report are defined by the number of course credits earned by graduates in specified types of courses during high school, as follows:**

**Standard** At least four credits of English and three each in social studies, mathematics, and science.

**Midlevel** In addition to standard requirements, geometry and algebra I or II; at least two courses in biology, chemistry, and physics; and at least one credit of a foreign language.

**Rigorous** In addition to midlevel requirements, an additional credit in mathematics including pre-calculus or higher; biology, chemistry, and physics; and at least three foreign language credits.



Explore the 2019 NAEP High School Transcript Study results at [nationsreportcard.gov](https://nationsreportcard.gov).

*NAEP is a congressionally mandated project of the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education. The independent, nonpartisan National Assessment Governing Board oversees and sets policy for NAEP.*