

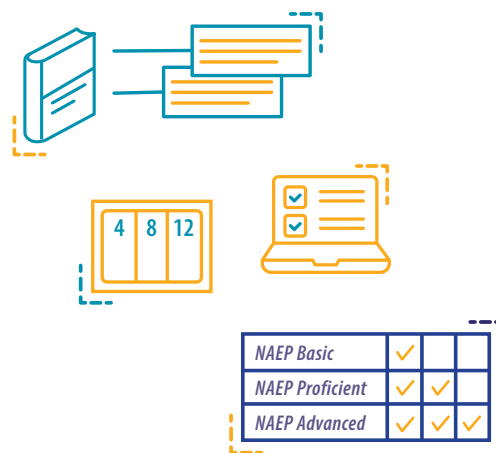
HOW NAEP FRAMEWORKS ARE UPDATED



What is a NAEP framework?

NAEP frameworks are written for large-scale assessment, are curriculum-neutral, and reflect aspirations for what all students should know and be able to do. Each NAEP framework describes:

- **What is to be measured**, i.e., the content that will be assessed for the subject area;
- **How it will be measured**, e.g., the format of each NAEP assessment, the knowledge and skills to be assessed at grades 4, 8, and 12, sample items for each grade, weighting of the item pool, provision of ancillary materials, uses of technology, etc.; and
- **How much content knowledge and skills are required for NAEP Basic, NAEP Proficient, and NAEP Advanced performance**, i.e., how much of the content domain students should know and be able to do for each NAEP achievement level.



Who creates NAEP frameworks?

The Governing Board develops and updates NAEP frameworks through active participation of stakeholders representing all major constituents in NAEP: teachers, curriculum specialists, content experts, assessment specialists, state administrators, local school administrators, policymakers, business representatives, parents, users of assessment data, researchers and technical experts, and members of the public.

The Governing Board conducts a competitive bid process to award contracts to both engage stakeholders and develop recommendations for updating the NAEP frameworks.

The final phase of the framework update project gathers public comment on the draft version of each framework.



Why are NAEP frameworks updated?

We have to evolve to maintain NAEP as the gold standard and that includes ensuring that the NAEP frameworks are updated for modern expectations for students. Updates address recent standards, curricula, and instruction, research on cognitive development, and the latest perspectives on what students should know and be able to do.



How are update recommendations developed?

- The framework update process begins with Governing Board discussion with external experts in the subject as part of a review of the framework.
- If an update is needed, the Governing Board establishes and charges a Visioning Panel to develop high-level guidelines about what the framework update should reflect.
- Half of the Visioning Panel continues to work as the Development Panel, developing a draft framework to reflect the Visioning Panel guidelines.
- The Governing Board reviews the draft framework and collects public comments.
- The process concludes when the Board makes a final decision on the content to be included in the assessment, by adopting a finalized new framework.
- The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) then develops items and tasks to build the new assessment.

How much will the updates capture what students are currently learning and being tested on in their states?

NAEP includes what experts and education stakeholders believe should be measured on The Nation's Report Card. As a steady metric amidst the diverse curricula implemented across the country, NAEP is informed by other assessment frameworks and state policies, as well as broader factors nationally and internationally.

Although the framework process is informed by factors beyond state curricula or standards, there is overlap between what the updated frameworks include and what students are currently learning, which shows relevancy to today's expectations in the classroom.



How much will the updates be aligned to a specific set of state standards? Will the updated NAEP frameworks indicate what students should be learning?

NAEP is prohibited from “curricular influence,” and so NAEP frameworks must be curriculum-neutral. They are not curriculum frameworks and do not indicate what should be taught, nor do they attempt to define all the knowledge and skills in a subject area. NAEP reflects content valued by the nation, which includes all state standards as well as national standards.