



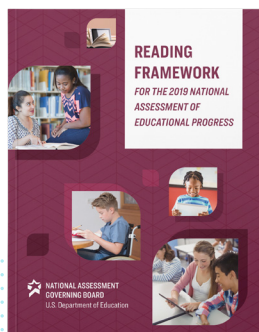
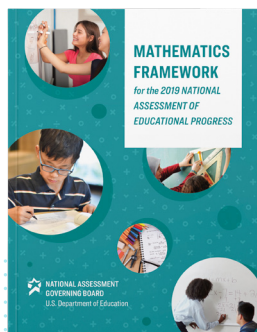
# The Nation's Report Card: Grade 12 Reading and Mathematics

To improve student achievement, we first need to know where we are. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)—also known as The Nation's Report Card—has informed the public about what American students know and can do for more than 50 years.

NAEP, the only nationally representative assessment of elementary and secondary education in the United States, provides rich data on student performance and on the contexts in which students learn. Results in reading and mathematics are provided for grade 12 students across the nation every four years. Students took the assessments on tablets from January to March 2019, which marked the first time grade 12 NAEP used a digital-based administration.

## Design of the Grade 12 NAEP Mathematics and Reading Assessments

The National Assessment Governing Board, the nonpartisan organization that sets policy for NAEP, engaged K-12 and postsecondary educators, researchers, assessment specialists, and members of the public to establish the NAEP Reading and Mathematics frameworks. These frameworks provide a blueprint for assessing skills and knowledge in reading and in mathematics.



For grade 12, the NAEP mathematics framework specifies that each question in the assessment measures one of four mathematical content areas: number properties and operations; measurement and geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra. It also describes levels of complexity that refer to the cognitive demands of each question: low, moderate, and high.

The reading framework calls for NAEP to measure and report on preparedness for postsecondary endeavors in grade 12. It includes two types of texts: literary and informational. Literary texts include fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry. Informational texts include exposition, argumentation and persuasive texts, and procedural texts and documents. Questions for both texts measure one of the three cognitive targets: students' ability to locate and recall information, to integrate and interpret, and to critique and analyze what they have read.

## How Performance is Reported

NAEP reports performance using both average scale scores and percentages of students performing at or above three achievement levels: *NAEP Basic*, *NAEP Proficient*, and *NAEP Advanced*.

**NAEP Basic:** denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for performance at the *NAEP Proficient* level.

**NAEP Proficient:** represents solid academic performance for each NAEP assessment. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.

**NAEP Advanced:** signifies superior performance beyond *NAEP Proficient*.

*NAEP Proficient* is defined differently from other uses of the term proficient. This variation in terminology often causes confusion when interpreting NAEP achievement levels. For example, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act refers to student “proficiency.” State assessment systems may use the terms “proficient” and “proficiency,” but state definitions of proficient vary widely. It is important to note that *NAEP Proficient* represents the NAEP program’s goal for what all students should know.



## Measuring Academic Preparedness

The Governing Board established benchmarks on the NAEP Reading and Mathematics assessments at which students are considered academically prepared for postsecondary education—that is, qualified for entry-level general education college courses without the need for remedial work. Since 2013, NCES has used these benchmarks to produce estimated percentages of grade 12 students who possess the knowledge and skills in reading and mathematics that would make them academically prepared for first-year college courses.



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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.