

## Members of the Technical Panel on 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Preparedness Research

For over a year, the panel evaluated ways for the 12th grade NAEP assessment to report on preparedness and talked with representatives of other leading assessment programs.

The panel included seven experts from around the country with knowledge in a variety of measurement and policy areas related to preparedness, including the workplace, military training, assessments, and postsecondary transition.

### Michael Kirst (Chair)

Professor Emeritus of Education and Business Administration  
Stanford University

### John Campbell

Professor of Psychology and Professor of Human Resources and Industrial Relations  
University of Minnesota

### David T. Conley

Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership, Director of the Center for Educational Policy Research  
University of Oregon

### Michael Kane

Director of Research  
National Conference of Bar Examiners

### Mark David Milliron

President and CEO  
Catalyze Learning International

### Robert Mislevy (Adjunct Member)

Professor of Measurement, Statistics & Evaluation  
University of Maryland

### George C. Thornton, III

Professor of Industrial Organizational Psychology  
Colorado State University



“We can do more to increase the preparedness of high school graduates for the next phase of their lives if we can better understand the current level of preparedness. With the comprehensive research process we have recommended for The Nation’s Report Card, we hope to do just that.”

*Michael Kirst, Chair of the Technical Panel on 12th Grade Preparedness Research*

## PREPAREDNESS OF 12<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

For the first time ever, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) plans to report how academic achievement relates to how students use their skills beyond high school. The National Assessment Governing Board will provide this larger picture by studying the link between NAEP—the only national assessment for 12th graders—and preparedness for college and the workplace.

Since 2003, the Governing Board has been laying the groundwork to add more meaning to grade 12 NAEP results. The Board appointed the Technical Panel on 12th Grade Preparedness Research to identify research needed to report how well prepared 12th-graders are for college and for job training. Beginning with the 2009 reading and mathematics assessments for grade 12, this research will connect academic preparedness to student performance on NAEP, also known as The Nation’s Report Card.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE PREPAREDNESS RESEARCH

- **Focus on academics:** National conversations about preparedness also include study habits and interpersonal skills. Emphasize that NAEP can only examine *academic* skills.
- **Describe the national context:** The Nation’s Report Card should explain how NAEP preparedness measures relate to other preparedness initiatives.
- **Use a variety of study designs:** To create solid evidence for NAEP preparedness reporting, use both qualitative and quantitative studies.
- **Involve key stakeholders:** Collaboration from higher education course placement professionals, business leaders, military personnel, and subject matter experts is needed for NAEP preparedness studies.
- **Plan additional NAEP studies:** Continuing preparedness research is needed to support reporting preparedness for future grade 12 NAEP assessments.

For the complete technical report, please visit <http://www.nagb.org>.

# The Nation's Report Card

The Nation's Report Card is the only nationally representative, continuing evaluation of the condition of education in the United States and has served as a national yardstick of student achievement since 1969.

The National Assessment Governing Board is the independent bipartisan board that sets policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Through NAEP, The Nation's Report Card informs the public about what America's students know and can do in various subject areas, and compares achievement data between states and various student demographic groups. The identities of schools and students involved in the assessment are confidential as NAEP only reports scores for groups of students.

The sample for the grade 12 NAEP assessment includes 108,400 students. The grade 12 NAEP Report Card for 2009 will feature national results as well as the results of a state pilot assessment for 11 states.

For more information on The Nation's Report Card, visit:  
<http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>

For more information on the National Assessment Governing Board, visit:  
<http://www.nagb.org>



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## How NAEP Will Define Preparedness

The Technical Panel recommends research that will develop NAEP reports of *academic* preparedness:

**For college**, academic preparedness refers to the reading and mathematics knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for placement into entry-level college credit courses that meet general education requirements without the need for remedial coursework.

**For the workplace**, academic preparedness refers to the reading and mathematics knowledge and skills needed to qualify for job training; it does not necessarily mean that the qualifications to be hired for a job have been met.

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## How NAEP Will Report Preparedness

The research has many potential outcomes. NAEP scores may:

- Indicate preparedness to earn a grade of “B” or better in an introductory college-level general education course in reading or mathematics.
- Represent mastery of knowledge and skills in reading or mathematics needed to enter a particular job training program.
- Represent the reading or mathematics skill levels for admission to a typical public college or university.

The extensive research recommended by the Technical Panel will eventually determine how and what NAEP can report for grade 12 student preparedness.

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## When NAEP Will Report Preparedness

The wide range of research recommended by the Technical Panel will determine whether it is possible to report preparedness using the 2009 NAEP reading and mathematics assessment results. The Board's goal is to report on 12th grade preparedness for the 2009 NAEP in reading and mathematics and to release the reports as soon as the first round of research is completed and ready for release later in 2010.