Frequently Asked Questions
NAEP Science Assessment Framework Panel Nominations

What is the NAEP Science Assessment Framework?
The NAEP Science Assessment Framework provides the blueprint for the content and design of the NAEP Science Assessment. Frameworks determine what is assessed on NAEP, but underline not what should be taught in schools or how.

Why does the Board need to update the NAEP Science Framework?
The current framework was last updated in 2005 and went into effect starting with the 2009 assessment. The Board typically considers updates to assessment frameworks every ten years given changes in academic expectations in different content areas. Thus, the Board wants to update the NAEP Science Framework to make sure it reflects developments and trends in science education in the last decade and a half.

What type of panels does the Governing Board seek for updating the NAEP Science Framework?
Framework development and updates are executed primarily via two panels: a Steering Panel with a subset of members continuing as the Development Panel.

The Steering Panel formulates high-level guidance about the state of the field and how to implement direction from the Governing Board. Most of the work will be at the beginning of the process to provide initial guidance for developing a recommended framework. This panel will be composed of teachers, policymakers, business representatives, parents, state and local school administrators, curriculum specialists, content experts, assessment specialists, researchers and technical experts, users of assessment data, and other members of the public who have some background or expertise in science.

The Development Panel will be a subset of the Steering Panel and have a proportionally higher representation of content experts and educators, whose expertise collectively addresses all grade levels designated for the assessment under development.

What are the main responsibilities of each panel?
The primary responsibilities of the Steering Panel will include:
- Reading draft documents;
- providing big-picture recommendations; and
- engaging in outreach, including helping to schedule and host webinars with members of their organization during the public comment period.

The primary responsibility of the Development Panel will be to develop an outline that summarizes the key elements of the framework update and associated rationale. Panelists will engage in the detailed deliberations about how issues outlined in the Board Charge and Steering Panel discussion should be reflected in a recommended framework.

Panelists will not be official spokespeople for the framework or the overall process. The only exception would be Steering Panel members who might help the Board lead webinars to elicit feedback from organizations they represent during the public comment period.

Are there specific qualifications required for service?
The Governing Board has no specific requirements such as years of service, particular background, degrees, etc. But an applicant must be a stakeholder who represents one of the categories described above in the make-up of the Steering Panel.

Is there overall guidance for panelists during deliberations?
Panel members' recommendations for revisions to the framework must focus on what should be assessed – not what or how content should be taught. Panel members must be prepared to consider all viewpoints and debate all pertinent issues in formulating consensus recommendations on the content and design of a NAEP assessment, including findings from research.

The process of developing recommendations will follow the Board policy on Assessment Framework Development. In determining recommendations, panelists will need to incorporate the Board's initial direction but will also be expected to incorporate their own expertise and insight for additional changes. The Governing Board Charge determines the scope of revisions to be conducted, and the Governing Board makes the final determination about what is included in the assessment frameworks based on the expert guidance and recommendations of the panel members.

What is the process for applying to be a panelist?
Those interested in being a panelist must submit a resume or CV and answer a series of questions related to professional background, viewpoints, and experience in science education and assessment. People can also nominate others to be a panelist. Those who nominate someone will have to provide name, contact information, and other basic details about themselves and the nominee.

Both the nominator and nominee will receive automatic e-mails to confirm the nomination submission. Finalists will be contacted by the Board. Visit the Board's page for submission details.

What is the deadline for submission?
All submissions must be received by 11:59 pm ET on July 15, 2022 – no exceptions or extensions will be granted.

How and when will panelists be selected?
Board staff and members will review all submissions carefully and recommend a panel that is diverse in its content and assessment expertise, demographic characteristics, regional background, and perspectives. The Board's Executive Committee will formally approve the slate of panelists in late summer with duties beginning in early fall.

What is the time commitment?
A Steering Panel member will be required to attend a 2-day in-person meeting in September 2022 in Washington, DC and 16 hours of virtual meetings scheduled between fall 2022 and Fall 2023. The primary responsibilities will entail reading draft documents, providing big-picture recommendations, and engaging in outreach, including helping to schedule and host webinars with members of their organization during the public comment period.

A Development Panel member should anticipate an additional 3 in-person meetings of 2 days each convened in Washington, DC between fall 2022 and fall 2023, and an additional 48 hours of virtual meetings. Members of both panels will also need to factor in additional time preparing for the meetings due to reading related materials and documents.

Is there any compensation?
There will be an honorarium of $500 per day. We also will cover substitute pay for teachers.