

Overview of the National Assessment of Educational Progress High School Transcript Study

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts the High School Transcript Study (HSTS) in conjunction with the National Assessment Educational Progress (NAEP). The HSTS surveys the curricula being followed in our nation's high schools and the coursetaking patterns of high school students, including the courses they took in different subject areas and the grades they received for those courses, through a collection of transcripts. The study is conducted with a nationally representative sample of students and high schools. Beginning in the summer and continuing through the fall of the year, high school transcripts are collected for students who graduated from public and private high schools that were sampled for the NAEP assessments. Because the transcripts for HSTS are collected from the same students in the same sample of schools in which the NAEP twelfth grade assessments are given, it is possible to link course-taking patterns to academic performance, as measured by NAEP.

The data collected from the HSTS are typically reported as follows:

- The distribution of graduates by coursetaking and demographic characteristics.
- The mean number of credits that graduates earned in major subject fields and by student demographic categories.
- The relationship of NAEP scores with various graduate characteristics.

The HSTS was first conducted in 1987 and was most recently reported in 2009; it is next scheduled to be conducted in 2019.