

Across the Board: Understanding Recent NAEP Results

Over 2018 and 2019, the NAEP program assessed students in nearly every major subject and across all three NAEP grades. In 2018, NAEP assessed eighth graders in civics, geography, and U.S. history. In 2019, NAEP assessed students in fourth, eighth, and twelfth grades in mathematics, reading, and science. The results revealed a growing divergence in knowledge and skills between the nation's highest and lowest achievement students over the last decade (see this [discussion of the divergence in mathematics and reading at grades 4 and 8](#)).

NCES will present a summary of key findings from the 2009-2019 NAEP assessments vis-à-vis diverging trends and performance changes across student groups and geographic areas. Following the presentation, Board members will discuss reactions to the key findings and steps the Board might consider to (a) better inform education stakeholders about these cross-cutting trends, and (b) deepen understanding/insights into these patterns (e.g., by commissioning special research studies, etc.).