



RELEASE PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP)

The Nation's Report Card: Civics and U.S. History

Results from the 2022 Nation's Report Card—National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)—in Civics and in U.S. History will be released to the public in May 2023. The release will occur at the Capitol Visitor Center (to be confirmed) in Washington, DC, underscoring the central role The Capitol plays in both civics and U.S. history as well as the substantial attention and support Congress focuses on these assessments.

This venue was originally reserved for the April 2020 release of the 2018 Nation's Report Card in these subjects, however the pandemic shuttered The Capitol Building and required a pivot to a completely virtual event (which proved enormously successful).

The event will be webcast live for a national audience and last approximately 75 minutes. It will include opening comments by a Governing Board member, a data presentation by the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and a question-and-answer session featuring pre-recorded questions filmed at locations of historic and civic importance.

DATE AND LOCATION

The release event will occur in May 2023. The Chair of the Reporting and Dissemination Committee will set the release date, in accordance with Governing Board policy, in collaboration with NCES, and following Committee acceptance of the final report card.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE RELEASE

In the weeks before the release event, the Governing Board will mount a social media campaign to build interest, with special focus on stakeholders involved in civics and U.S. history. The Governing Board will post very short videos produced specifically to promote the release on the

Board’s social media channels and tag well-known advocates for civics and U.S. history education. Current thinking involves an approach that pairs [Take NAEP Now](#)—an NCES website on which the public can test themselves on released NAEP items—with Person on the Street / Are You Smarter Than an Eighth-Grader? video segments. Posing open-ended questions from the NAEP civics and U.S. history assessments may prove less threatening than asking fact-based questions that rely on memory and may feel more ‘gotcha’ than illustrative.

In the days preceding the release, NCES will host a conference call for media to provide highlights from the results and answer questions. NCES will oversee an embargoed website with results available to professional journalists approved for access by NCES as well as select stakeholders and Congressional staff. Pre-release briefings will be held with select audiences as deemed appropriate by NCES. These activities provide a comprehensive overview of findings and data to help ensure accurate reporting to the public and deeper understanding of results.

REPORT RELEASE

The Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics will release the report card at the NAEP website—<http://nationsreportcard.gov>—at 12:01am the day of the release event. The Governing Board press release, a list of ‘validators’ (current and former Board members who participate in media training for the civics and U.S. history release will be listed as available for media interviews), the NAEP Civics and U.S. History Frameworks, and related materials will be posted on the Board’s website.

The release event will be held in person at the Capitol Visitors Center (to be confirmed) and livestreamed. Patrick Kelly (to be confirmed), chair of the Assessment Development Committee and a high school teacher of government and history, will offer opening remarks, explaining the critical importance of education and assessment in civics and U.S. history. Commissioner Peggy Carr of the National Center for Education Statistics will share and explain the results of both assessments in one presentation.

After the data presentation, NCES statisticians Ebony Walton and Grady Wilburn (to be confirmed) in person at the release event will address questions which are pre-recorded at locations across the country famous for civic and historic significance. Possible locations include the Alamo, Gettysburg, Little Rock, Selma, Liberty Bell, End of Oregon Trail, and the Lincoln Memorial (the spot where Martin Luther King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech). The questioners can include students, interpreters or rangers, and teachers. The questions would be shaped by the NCES and Governing Board staffs to ensure feasibility of data-centric responses.

CENTRAL MESSAGES

Activities before and after the release, as well as the release itself, will promote at least two critical messages. First, concerns over Americans' relatively weak knowledge of civics and U.S. history are merited and clearly manifest at grade 8. Second, immense attention on reading and mathematics may distract from the importance of knowledge and skills in civics and history that are essential to ensure an informed citizenry who can defend and protect democratic ideals. Additional messages will emerge once the Governing Board members have received a preview of the results and discuss what data they find imperative to spotlight.

ACTIVITIES AFTER THE RELEASE

The Governing Board's communications contractor will work with Board staff to coordinate additional post-release communications efforts—which could include conference presentations, briefings, or a follow-up event with students. The goal of these activities is to extend the life of the results and offer value and relevance to stakeholders.