



ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, November 20, 2025

3:15 – 4:45 pm EST

Washington 1

3:15 – 3:20 pm	Welcome and Introductions <i>Patrick Kelly, Chair</i> <i>Christine Cunningham, Vice Chair</i>	
3:20 – 4:15 pm	Overview of the NAEP Item Development Process <i>Terran Brown, ETS</i> <i>Hilary Persky, ETS</i>	Attachment A
4:15 – 4:45 pm	Next Steps for Content Advisory Groups <i>Sharyn Rosenberg</i> <i>Patrick Kelly</i>	Attachment B
Information Item	Item Review Schedule	Attachment C

Overview of the NAEP Item Development Process

November 20, 2025

Goal

The goal of this session is to provide background on the current processes and timelines for NAEP item development, including some minor changes made earlier this year as a result of contract modifications.

Overview

According to the NAEP legislation, the Governing Board has final authority on the appropriateness of all NAEP items. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has responsibility for developing and administering NAEP items. It currently takes approximately 4-6 years from when an updated assessment framework is adopted by the Governing Board to the time that new items aligned with that framework are included on operational NAEP assessments. The item development process includes many different steps and reviews, in accordance with the Board policy on [Item Development and Review](#).

Terran Brown and Hilary Persky of Educational Testing Service (ETS), the NCES contractor for assessment content development, will provide an overview of the current item development and review processes.

Next Steps for Content Advisory Groups

November 20, 2025

Goal

The goal of this session is to discuss how and when to constitute content advisory groups for the various NAEP content areas.

Overview

Over the past several years, the Board has sought to make continuous improvements to the process of updating NAEP assessment frameworks. A revised policy for [Assessment Framework Development](#) adopted in March 2025 incorporates standing groups of subject matter experts, known as content advisory groups, to implement a nimbler process by monitoring the current state of research and practice in a field and potential implications for NAEP assessment frameworks.

The policy requires that each content advisory group meet no less than once every two years. Since the policy was adopted in March 2025, all content advisory groups should meet for the first time no later than March 2027. The Board temporarily convened a Social Studies Content Advisory Group from June 2024 – January 2025 to serve as a proof of concept of the new policy and inform potential changes to the NAEP U.S. History and Civics Assessment Frameworks. Content advisory groups have not yet been formed for the other three subjects included on the [NAEP Assessment Schedule](#): mathematics, reading, and science.

During the November ADC meeting, members will discuss priorities and considerations for launching content advisory groups in accordance with the new policy.

Background

For several years, the Board and ADC in particular discussed the idea of reviewing NAEP assessment frameworks more regularly with the goal of making smaller changes on a more frequent basis. In order to implement a nimbler process for updating assessment frameworks, two key changes to the previous policy were needed: (1) a process for monitoring the fields in which NAEP assesses to follow current developments that could have implications for NAEP frameworks either in the short-term or long-term; and (2) a process for implementing minor updates to NAEP frameworks when the Board determines this is warranted.

To address the first requirement, the updated policy establishes content advisory groups (CAGs) in each NAEP subject area, consisting of approximately 10 content and policy experts. The CAGs are standing groups under the direction of the Governing Board and should include at least some members having previous experience with NAEP and (to the extent feasible) the Board's work in the subject area (e.g., previous framework panelists and/or ADC members). Each CAG should meet at least once every

two years to discuss current developments in the field. The CAG discussion may sometimes surface issues for the Board to monitor either informally (e.g., staff attending conferences or events or setting up discussions with various stakeholders to learn more) or formally (e.g., commissioning a research study to gather more information that could inform future decisions about whether and how to update a framework). When the Board does decide to update a NAEP framework, the revised policy also addresses the specific involvement of the CAG in different types of framework updates.

To address the second requirement, the updated policy draws a clear distinction between the size of the update (minor or substantive) and includes a new principle describing how a minor update would be conducted (whereas the process for a substantive update would be very similar to the previous process, with some small modifications). A minor update would be conducted by the content advisory group instead of convening a full Development Panel, and the abbreviated process would be expected to take no more than 6 months as compared to about 18 months currently.

It is anticipated that some substantive updates to frameworks will still be necessary in certain circumstances (such as when there is a large shift in a field that does not happen gradually), but the intention is that most framework updates would be minor. It is important to note that the intended purpose of convening content advisory groups at least every two years is to engage in ongoing monitoring of a field to better understand emerging issues that may have implications for NAEP assessment frameworks, whether in the short-term or long-term. There is no expectation that each framework would be updated anywhere near as frequently as every 2 years and it is not practical to do so for either the Board or NCES. However, understanding emerging issues could help inform whether additional research or information should be gathered. It is anticipated that many of the Content Advisory Group meetings would result in no immediate action.

**Assessment Development Committee
Item Review Schedule
October 2025 – December 2026
As of October 17, 2025**

Review Package to Board	Board Comments to NCES	Survey/ Cognitive	Review Task	Approx. Number Items	Status
2/18/2026	3/12/2026	Survey	Science (8) 2028 Operational (2027 pilot) (<i>Clearance</i>)	247*	
4/29/2026	5/22/2026	Cognitive	Science (8) 2028 Operational (2027 pilot) (<i>Clearance</i>)	350	
7/22/2026	8/14/2026	Cognitive	Math (8) 2030 Operational (2029 pilot) (<i>Concept Sketches/Stimuli</i>)	3	
7/22/2026	8/14/2026	Cognitive	Reading (4 & 8) 2030 Operational (2029 pilot) (<i>Concept Sketches/Passages</i>)	12	
11/4/2026	11/30/2026	Survey	Math (4 & 8) 2030 Operational (2029 pilot) (<i>Preliminary</i>)	72*	
11/4/2026	11/30/2026	Survey	Reading (4 & 8) 2030 Operational (2029 pilot) (<i>Preliminary</i>)	88*	

*Item counts are expressed at the sub-item level and include all respondent groups (i.e., student, teacher, and school).