

TUDA Eligibility Criteria

Goal

The purpose of this session is to share with Board members a revised and updated version of the Governing Board's policy for the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program. The TUDA Policy sets forth the program's goals, specifies the criteria for district eligibility for TUDA, and outlines the process for inviting eligible districts to participate.

Overview

The Executive Committee reviewed the Board's current TUDA policy at their February 2026 committee meeting. They recommended revisions and updates to the policy, which are incorporated within the version of the policy in the board meeting materials. Board members should review the revised policy and prepare questions, feedback, and concerns about the changes for plenary discussion.

Background

The Governing Board adopted the current version of the TUDA Policy in 2007 and made slight revisions to the policy in 2012.

Large urban school districts volunteer to participate in TUDA, a program within NAEP which started in 2002 with six districts and expanded to more than 25 districts over the last two decades. These districts' students are sampled in sufficient number to provide district representative results in reading and mathematics, grades 4 and 8, every two years. The TUDA program provides a valuable source of objective assessment data that can drive efforts to improve student achievement.

The Council of the Great City Schools worked with NCES and the Governing Board -- and requested funds from Congress -- to start TUDA, and the effort remains a close collaboration. The Board sets the eligibility criteria, NAEP staff and contractors determine which districts meet these requirements, and the Council explores which districts might be interested in volunteering to participate. The Board then decides which interested districts will be invited and extends a formal invitation.

Twenty-four TUDA districts participated in 2026 NAEP. There is availability for additional districts to join 2028 NAEP, which led to a discussion at November's Executive Committee meeting about which districts are eligible to participate. This prompted a re-examination of the policy at the February Executive Committee meeting and a set of recommended changes, which are reflected in the version presented for discussion at this plenary session.

The session materials accompanying this overview include a version of the proposed revised TUDA policy with no markings indicating where changes were made as well as a marked-up version of the current TUDA policy showing where changes were made. The proposed changes are substantive in nature but do not change the fundamental elements of the TUDA program. The changes include:

- Removing the word "Trial" from the program's title but retaining the acronym to preserve its easy recognition by stakeholders
- Focusing Principle 2 on providing data that allows for comparative analyses
- Defining an urban district's population and population density with more specificity and clarity
- Emphasizing the voluntary nature of the TUDA program and directly addressing punctuated participation
- Aligning the required minimum threshold of enrollment with sampling practices
- Clarifying district eligibility criteria
- Simplifying TUDA selection criteria and application procedures

Revised: March 30, 2026



Eligibility Criteria and Procedures for Selecting Districts for Participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress Trends in Urban District Assessment

Policy Statement

Purpose

To define the eligibility criteria and selection procedures for inviting urban school districts to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Trends in Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

Guiding Principles

Principle 1

Participation in TUDA shall be voluntary.

Principle 2

A primary goal of TUDA is to provide district-level data about student achievement in the nation's large urban districts which allow analyses of unique urban education issues collectively and individually.

Principle 3

Districts participating in TUDA shall encompass a Census-designated city that has a population of at least 250,000 residents living in high-density census blocks.

Principle 4

Districts applying for participation in TUDA should be committed to continual participation. All districts which have participated in TUDA without interruption once included shall be deemed eligible and permitted to continue to participate. TUDA districts whose participation is interrupted may volunteer to participate again and will be considered for continued eligibility.

Principle 5

Selection criteria for participation in TUDA shall promote (1) inter-district comparability; (2) efficiency in assessment administration; and (3) regional representation across the nation.

Principle 6

Increasing the total number of districts participating in TUDA shall be contingent on available funding from Congress.

Principle 7

The Governing Board implements the selection procedures to determine which districts are invited to participate in TUDA.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Only districts encompassing cities with 250,000 or more population shall be represented in TUDA.
2. Districts participating in TUDA shall have a student enrollment large enough to support NAEP assessments in at least two subjects in each grade assessed. The enrollment requirement is a minimum of 1,100 students per subject per grade level assessed.
3. Districts participating in TUDA shall have an enrollment district-wide, or in the grade levels assessed, which meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) 50% or more belong to traditionally underrepresented student groups (e.g., American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander)
 - b) 50% or more are classified as economically disadvantaged
4. Eligibility data shall be updated and verified periodically.

Selection Process

To provide time for consultation, notification, and operational planning for the conduct of the Trends in Urban District Assessment program, the steps below should be sequenced to conclude approximately **14 months** prior to the start of testing.

1. Prior to the assessment year in which TUDA is to be conducted, Governing Board staff, in consultation with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), prepares a list of eligible districts and posts that list on the Governing Board website.
2. Based on funding from Congress and the decision of any previous TUDA participant not to continue, the Governing Board determines whether new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration.
3. If the Governing Board determines that new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration, the Governing Board Executive Director and NCES Commissioner send a jointly-signed letter notifying eligible districts of the opportunity to submit an application and the instructions for applying.
4. Eligible districts seeking to participate in TUDA apply to the Executive Director of the Governing Board. The application should be signed by the district superintendent or designee, include the most recent information documenting the district's enrollment and eligibility, and contain a commitment for long-term participation in TUDA if selected.
5. Governing Board staff shall review applications in consultation with the Chair of the Governing Board, staff of the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools.
6. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall recommend new districts for participation in TUDA to the Governing Board for final action.
7. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall send notification of the Board's decision regarding district participation in TUDA to the district and to the Commissioner of Education Statistics.

Potential Pool of Eligible Districts

The list of eligible districts shall be posted on the website of the National Assessment Governing Board (www.naqb.gov) and made publicly available through other appropriate means. The list of eligible districts will change periodically due to changes in district population.



Revised: ~~August 4,~~
2012March 30, 2026

~~National Assessment Governing Board~~
**Eligibility Criteria and Procedures for Selecting Districts for
Participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress**
~~Trial~~Trends in Urban District Assessment

Policy Statement

Purpose

To define the eligibility criteria and selection procedures for ~~participation~~
~~of inviting~~ urban school districts to participate in the National Assessment of
Educational Progress (NAEP) ~~Trial~~Trends in Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

Guiding Principles

Principle 1

Participation in TUDA shall be voluntary.

Principle 2

A primary goal of TUDA is to ~~support the improvement of~~provide district-level data
about student achievement in the nation's large urban ~~school~~ districts ~~and to focus~~
~~attention on the specific challenges and accomplishments associated with~~which allow analyses
of unique urban education issues collectively and individually.

Principle 3

Districts participating in TUDA shall ~~have the characteristics~~encompass a Census-
designated city that has a population of ~~large urban areas~~at least 250,000 residents living in
high-density census blocks.

Principle 4

~~All districts that~~Districts applying for participation in TUDA should be committed to
continual participation. All districts which have participated in TUDA without interruption
once included shall be deemed eligible and permitted to continue to participate. TUDA
districts whose participation is interrupted may volunteer to participate again and will be
considered for continued eligibility.

Principle 5

~~The eligibility~~Selection criteria for participation in TUDA shall promote (1) inter-district comparability, ~~so that participating districts are reasonably similar with respect to key demographics and~~; (2) efficiency in ~~resources required of~~assessment administration; and (3) regional representation across the NAEP ~~program~~nation.

Principle 6

Increasing the total number of districts participating in TUDA shall be contingent on additional available funding from Congress.

Principle 7

The Governing Board implements the selection procedures ~~used to consider~~determine which districts ~~for participation~~are invited to participate in TUDA.

Principle 8

~~Districts applying for participation in TUDA should be committed to long-term participation.~~

Eligibility Criteria

1. Only districts encompassing cities ~~having~~with 250,000 or more population shall be represented in TUDA.
2. Districts participating in TUDA shall have a student enrollment large enough to support NAEP assessments in ~~three~~at least two subjects in each grade assessed. The enrollment requirement is a minimum of ~~approximately 1,500~~100 students per subject per grade level assessed.
3. Districts participating in TUDA shall have an enrollment district-wide, or in the grade levels assessed ~~that meets,~~ which meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a) 50% or more ~~are minority students (i.e., belong to traditionally underrepresented student groups (e., African American, g., American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and/or multi-racial).)~~underrepresented student groups (e., African American, g., American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and/or multi-racial).)
 - a. ~~50% or more are eligible for participation in the free and reduced-price lunch program (or other appropriate indicator of poverty status).~~
 - b) ~~Districts that are very near to meeting a particular eligibility requirement may be considered eligible if they request to participate in the program and if funds are sufficient to permit participation.~~ 50% or more are classified as economically disadvantaged

4. Eligibility data shall be updated and verified periodically.

Application and Selection Process/Procedures

To provide time for consultation, notification, and operational planning for the conduct of the ~~Trial~~Trends in Urban District ~~Assessments~~Assessment program, the steps ~~described~~ below should be sequenced to conclude approximately **14 months** prior to the start of testing.

1. Prior to the assessment year in which TUDA is to be conducted, ~~the~~ Governing Board ~~Executive Director~~staff, in consultation with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), prepares a list of eligible districts and posts that list on the Governing Board website.
 - ~~1. Prior to the assessment year in which TUDA is to be conducted, the Governing Board Executive Director sends a letter to each district that participated in the immediately preceding administration of TUDA to determine the district's interest in continuing as a participant in the upcoming administration of TUDA.~~
2. Based on funding from Congress and the decision of any previous TUDA participant not to continue, the Governing Board determines whether new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration.
3. If the Governing Board determines that new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration, the Governing Board Executive Director ~~sends a~~ and NCES Commissioner send a jointly-signed letter notifying eligible districts of the opportunity to submit an application and the instructions for applying.
4. Eligible districts seeking to participate in TUDA ~~submit an application~~apply to the Executive Director of the Governing Board. The application should be signed by the district superintendent or designee, include the most recent information documenting the district's enrollment and eligibility, and contain a commitment for long-term participation in TUDA if selected.
5. ~~The Executive Director of the~~ Governing Board ~~and appropriate staff of the~~ Governing Board shall review applications in consultation with the Chairman~~Chair~~ of the Governing Board, ~~the Chairman of the Board's~~ Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology, staff of the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools.
6. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall recommend new districts for participation in TUDA to the Governing Board for final action.
7. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall send notification of the Board's decision regarding district participation in TUDA to the district and to the Commissioner of Education Statistics.

Potential Pool of Eligible Districts

The list of eligible districts shall be posted on the website of the National Assessment Governing Board (www.nagb.gov) and made publicly available through other appropriate means. The list of eligible districts will change ~~from time to time~~ periodically due to changes in ~~the~~ district population ~~of the district and the district setting~~.



Adopted: March 3, 2007
Revised: August 4, 2012

National Assessment Governing Board

Eligibility Criteria and Procedures for Selecting Districts for Participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress

Trial Urban District Assessment

Policy Statement

Purpose

To define the eligibility criteria and selection procedures for participation of urban school districts in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA).

Guiding Principles

Principle 1

Participation in TUDA shall be voluntary.

Principle 2

A primary goal of TUDA is to support the improvement of student achievement in the nation's large urban school districts and to focus attention on the specific challenges and accomplishments associated with urban education.

Principle 3

Districts participating in TUDA shall have the characteristics of large urban areas.

Principle 4

All districts that have participated in TUDA without interruption once included shall be deemed eligible and permitted to continue to participate.

Principle 5

The eligibility criteria for participation in TUDA shall promote (1) inter-district comparability, so that participating districts are reasonably similar with respect to key demographics and (2) efficiency in resources required of the NAEP program.

Principle 6

Increasing the total number of districts participating in TUDA shall be contingent on additional funding from Congress.

Principle 7

The Governing Board implements the selection procedures used to consider districts for participation in TUDA.

Principle 8

Districts applying for participation in TUDA should be committed to long-term participation.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Only cities having 250,000 or more population shall be represented in TUDA.
2. Districts participating in TUDA shall have a student enrollment large enough to support NAEP assessments in three subjects in each grade assessed. The enrollment requirement is a minimum of approximately 1,500 students per subject per grade level assessed.
3. Districts participating in TUDA shall have an enrollment district-wide or in the grade levels assessed that meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. 50% or more are minority students (i.e., African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and/or multi-racial).
 - b. 50% or more are eligible for participation in the free and reduced-price lunch program (or other appropriate indicator of poverty status).

Districts that are very near to meeting a particular eligibility requirement may be considered eligible if they request to participate in the program and if funds are sufficient to permit participation. Eligibility data shall be updated and verified periodically.

Application and Selection Process/Procedures

To provide time for consultation, notification, and operational planning for the conduct of the Trial Urban District Assessments, the steps described below should be sequenced to conclude approximately 14 months prior to the start of testing.

1. Prior to the assessment year in which TUDA is to be conducted, the Governing Board Executive Director, in consultation with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), prepares a list of eligible districts and posts that list on the Governing Board website.
2. Prior to the assessment year in which TUDA is to be conducted, the Governing Board Executive Director sends a letter to each district that participated in the immediately preceding administration of TUDA to determine the district's interest in continuing as a participant in the upcoming administration of TUDA.
3. Based on funding from Congress and the decision of any previous TUDA participant not to continue, the Governing Board determines whether new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration.
4. If the Governing Board determines that new districts can be considered for participation in the upcoming TUDA administration, the Governing Board Executive Director sends a letter notifying eligible districts of the opportunity to submit an application and the instructions for applying.
5. Eligible districts seeking to participate in TUDA submit an application to the Executive Director of the Governing Board. The application should be signed by the district superintendent or designee, include the most recent information documenting the district's enrollment and eligibility, and contain a commitment for long-term participation in TUDA if selected.
6. The Executive Director of the Governing Board and appropriate staff of the Governing Board shall review applications in consultation with the Chairman of the Governing Board, the Chairman of the Board's Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology, staff of the National Center for Education Statistics, and the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools.
7. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall recommend new districts for participation in TUDA to the Governing Board for final action.
8. The Executive Director of the Governing Board shall send notification of the Board's decision regarding district participation in TUDA to the district and to the Commissioner of Education Statistics.

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