

NAEP Assessment Schedule: Discussion and Action

May 2026

Goal

The goal of this session is to discuss and take action on changes to the NAEP Assessment Schedule.

Overview

Since its creation by Congress in 1988, the National Assessment Governing Board oversees and sets policy for NAEP in several congressionally mandated areas, which include determining the schedule of assessments. The NAEP Assessment Schedule indicates the assessment subject, grade, year, level of reporting (national, state, TUDA), and implementation of framework updates.

The Board adopted a Resolution in November 2023 on [Priorities for the NAEP Assessment Schedule](#):

- **Utility** – prioritize the administration of NAEP assessments that are valuable and informative to education stakeholders who direct, change, or influence policy and/or practice. NAEP data and reports from these assessments will be accessible and understandable to diverse audiences so that statistically valid and reliable data from national, state, and district samples can be used to advance policy and practice in support of increased student achievement.
- **Frequency** – commit to assess subjects other than reading and math at least every 4 years to provide additional measures of student academic progress at regular intervals; and
- **Efficiency** – develop and implement cost-effective ways to administer NAEP while, to the degree possible, maintaining a breadth of subjects on the schedule; and
- **Credibility** – ensure that NAEP remains bipartisan and nonpartisan, producing trusted data and analyses based on rigorous standards of research and evaluation, and reported in a timely manner

These policy priorities were used to inform changes to the schedule currently under consideration. The Board typically adopts a schedule that extends to the next 10 years; this updated version goes through 2036.

Proposed changes to the NAEP Assessment Schedule include the following:

1. Adding voluntary state- and district-level assessments given the actionability of the data

- a. Given the high level of Board and stakeholder interest, voluntary state level assessment in Civics has been moved up to 2028 for grade 8 and added in 2032 for grade 12.
- b. Science TUDA is back in the schedule for grade 8 (now in 2029), reflecting previous interest expressed by several TUDAs in participating in this voluntary assessment.
- c. Voluntary state level assessments for Reading and Math grade 12 have been added back to the proposed schedule beginning in 2028, reflecting the Board's previous goal of providing more actionable results from the grade 12 assessments.

2. Administering the Science assessment at all three grade levels

- a. Grade 12 at the national level has returned to the proposed schedule for 2033, reflecting the Board's previous goal of administering the updated Science assessment at all three grades.
- b. The proposed schedule includes shifting the first Science grade 8 assessment under the new framework from 2028 to 2029. There are two primary rationales for this change:
 - i. Given operational limits of three state-level assessments in a single year to avoid undue burden, postponing Science allows the addition of national and state level Civics at grade 8 in 2028; and
 - ii. The move alleviates a significant operational challenge and risk with the current schedule where the new Science assessment is being piloted in 2027. Typically, two years elapse between a pilot and operational assessment, particularly when many new items are being introduced, to evaluate how the piloted items performed and the selection/organization of the test forms for the operational assessment. Thus, shifting the Science assessment to 2029 will allow time for this item evaluation, reducing the potential risks to the operational Science assessment.

3. Continuing to update NAEP assessment frameworks

- a. The proposed schedule reflects a recent Board decision to proceed with initial steps of updating the NAEP Civics Assessment Framework for implementation beginning in 2032.
- b. The proposed schedule reflects plans to update the NAEP U.S. History Assessment Framework for implementation beginning in 2035.

It is important to note that the proposed schedule does not reflect the August 2025 [Board Resolution to Request Postponement from 2028 to 2029 of NAEP Reading and Mathematics](#). The Board does not have the authority to change the schedule of the mandated Reading and Mathematics assessments at grades 4 and 8. Should Congress act on the Board's request, the Board will adopt a revised Assessment Schedule to reflect the changes. The Board continues to believe that such a move is critical for ensuring credibility of NAEP data.