

Briefing on State Mapping Study

Goal

The purpose of this session is to share with Board members embargoed results of the latest NAEP State Mapping Study, which will be released in September 2026. This study places state NAEP scores on a common metric to compare state standards. This report always attracts significant interest and utility for state policymakers.

Overview

Brian Cramer of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) will present key findings from the latest NAEP State Mapping Study. After the presentation, time will be reserved for Q&A with Board members and for discussion by Board members.

Background

State assessments do not necessarily measure the same knowledge and skills, but all states participate in NAEP. Thus, with analyses that NCES staff will explain, scores from NAEP can serve as a common metric to understand and compare state proficiency standards. These results are not an evaluation of state assessment or of the quality of state achievement standards. Historically, state policymakers and advocates have used the mapping study to consider the rigor of individual state standards, to compare them to those of other states, and to inform state policymaking. For additional information, see the overview from NCES.