The Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program measures performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 27 urban school districts. The TUDA data allow for comparisons with other participating districts as well as with states and with the nation. Funded by Congress in 2002, the TUDA program has collected and reported student achievement data for select large urban districts every other year since 2003. When the program started, only six districts participated. As of 2017, the number of urban districts voluntarily participating has grown to 27. With the goal of improving student achievement, the TUDA program focuses attention on the specific challenges and accomplishments associated with urban education.

Because of their unique size and demographics, TUDA districts can learn best practices from similar districts to understand what works in improving education. NAEP provides high-quality and reliable results over the long term, helping participating urban school districts know if their initiatives are moving student achievement forward in reading and math.
Eligibility Criteria

Urban school districts eligible to participate in TUDA must meet the following criteria:

- Be located in cities with at least 250,000 residents
- Enroll at least 1,500 students per subject and per grade level that NAEP assesses
- Either districtwide or in the grade levels assessed, include
  - 50 percent or more minority students, or
  - 50 percent or more students eligible for the free and reduced-price lunch program

How Performance is Reported

The Governing Board reports performance using average scores and percentages of students performing at or above three achievement levels: Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. The Basic level signifies partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work in a grade and subject. Proficient denotes solid academic performance demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills. Advanced represents superior performance beyond proficiency. Proficient is not the same as being “on grade level,” which refers to student performance based on local standards and curriculum that can vary among school districts. It is only by holding our nation’s students to high academic standards that we can expect them to develop the knowledge and skills they need to compete in today’s global economy.

LEARN MORE AND STAY IN TOUCH

Visit www.nagb.gov for more information about the 2017 NAEP Reading and Mathematics releases and to sign up for our newsletter.

NAEP is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education. The independent, nonpartisan National Assessment Governing Board oversees and sets policy for NAEP.