



# The Nation's Report Card and 12th Grade Preparedness:



What Can the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Tell Us About U.S. Students' Academic Preparedness?

## Why Grade 12?

Grade 12 is a critical transition point for U.S. students. When graduates leave high school, they will enter higher education, civilian or military training programs, or the workforce. Yet we currently don't know the extent of our 12th graders' academic preparedness.

### On a daily basis we know...

- The fluctuations in the stock market
- The number of bushels of wheat produced nationwide
- The price of an ounce of gold
- Whether our nation's 12th graders are academically prepared for college and job training

A high school diploma is important. But it cannot tell us whether students have the knowledge and skills to handle basic college coursework without remediation, or whether those entering job-training programs have the academic skills they need. We need more information in this area.

## Why NAEP?

NAEP is the only assessment representative of all U.S. 12th graders. As the gold standard for assessing student achievement, NAEP is uniquely positioned to serve as an indicator of 12th grade academic preparedness.

For the first time ever, the National Assessment Governing Board is pursuing a comprehensive program of research to discover how achievement on 12th grade NAEP relates to whether students have the mathematics and reading skills they need for their pursuits beyond high school.

Ultimately, the research and the NAEP results will be available for use by educators and policymakers as a measure of trends in the academic preparedness of our nation's 12th graders.

## What Does It Mean to Be Academically Prepared?

12th graders should have the knowledge and skills in reading and mathematics...



To qualify for placement into entry-level college credit courses that meet general education requirements, *without* the need for remedial coursework in mathematics or reading.

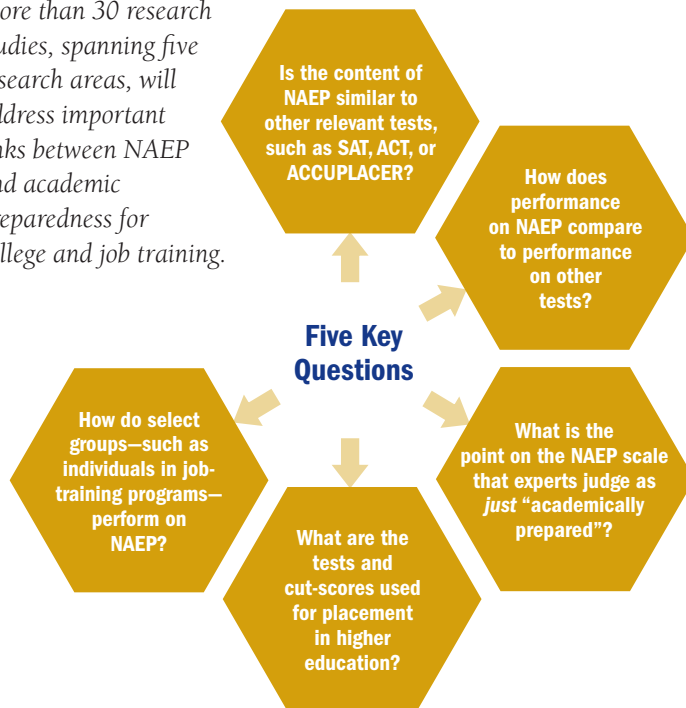


To qualify for a job-training program *without* remediation in mathematics or reading.

# ARE 12TH GRADERS PREPARED?

## Preparedness Research Questions

More than 30 research studies, spanning five research areas, will address important links between NAEP and academic preparedness for college and job training.



To see what the Governing Board has learned to date and for upcoming research results, visit [www.nagb.org/preparedness](http://www.nagb.org/preparedness).

## History of the Preparedness Initiative

**2002:** The Governing Board begins studying 12th grade NAEP and student achievement at the end of high school.

**2004:** National blue-ribbon panel recommends that 12th grade NAEP report on preparedness.

**2006:** NAEP is revised for college and job-training preparedness.

**2008:** Technical panel recommends series of research studies to report on 12th grade preparedness in reading and mathematics.

**2010:** Comprehensive program of research begins.

**2012:** Results of research studies to be released.

**2013:** Research will continue on academic preparedness for grade 12 NAEP.



## Find Out More

For a complete overview of the preparedness research to date, visit: [www.nagb.org/preparedness](http://www.nagb.org/preparedness)

## About NAEP

**The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**, also known as **The Nation’s Report Card**, is the only continuing, nationally representative measure of achievement in core subjects at grades 4, 8, and 12. NAEP provides achievement results and reveals trends over time. For more information, visit [www.nationsreportcard.gov](http://www.nationsreportcard.gov).

## About the Governing Board

**The National Assessment Governing Board** is an independent, bipartisan organization created by Congress in 1988 to set policy for NAEP. The Board works to improve the reporting of results to make sure they are communicated effectively to a wide range of Americans and is committed to making NAEP an accessible, useful resource. For more information, visit [www.nagb.org](http://www.nagb.org).