



An Overview of Below-State NAEP

NAEP results are typically reported at the national or state level; however, states, school districts, and consortiums of schools can obtain NAEP results below the state level by choosing to participate in Below-State NAEP. Below-State NAEP participants must agree to follow all NAEP standards, procedures and technical requirements and pay for the costs of all activities associated with the assessment.

What is Below-State NAEP?

Below-State NAEP is the augmentation or enlargement of national and/or state samples for the purpose of reporting NAEP results below the state level. Like NAEP, Below-State NAEP does not provide individual school-level or student-level results.

Who can participate?

The following entities may apply for participation in Below-State NAEP:

- State education agencies;
- Local education agencies;
- Consortiums of local education agencies; or
- Groups of schools that have a common purpose or mission (such as a group of parochial schools).

What are the requirements?

In order to provide statistically reliable and comparable results, each entity participating in Below-State NAEP will be subject to all NAEP standards, procedures and technical requirements consistent with the national and state NAEP. The information below identifies the minimum requirements for participation in Below-State NAEP:

- Each entity's student enrollment must meet the minimum sample size requirement of 1,500 students per subject, per grade.
- Each entity must achieve a participation rate of at least 85 percent of the schools identified in the original school sample.
- Each entity must agree to schedule the administration of Below-State NAEP assessment within the 6-week NAEP testing window that runs concurrently from January through March.
- Each entity must identify a District NAEP Coordinator to coordinate all aspects of the administration with the NAEP contractors.

What will each entity receive?

Participating entities will receive Below-State NAEP results in the form of: 1) a district report, including a one-page snapshot report, 2) district comparison tables¹ providing comparisons between the entity and the districts participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment²; and 3) a raw data file³.

¹ The initial set of district comparison tables (provided at the time of release) will include overall means for total, gender, and race/ethnicity. Approximately one month after the release date, a full set of district comparison tables for major reporting variables (up to 15) will be provided. Comparison tables will only be provided for years in which the Trial Urban District Assessment is conducted.

² For more information about the Trial Urban District Assessment, including a list of the participating districts, please go to <http://nationsreportcard.gov/tuda.asp>.

³ All districts will receive an electronic data file of raw, un-weighted student records. If districts do not meet NAEP's school and student participation rate requirements, they may only receive the raw data file.

How will costs be calculated?

The computation of costs is based on activities related to sampling and data collection; materials preparation, distribution and scoring; and analysis and reporting, and is dependent upon factors such as the number of schools, students and subjects to be included in the assessment. Cost estimates provided in prior years yielded a range from \$297,000 to \$673,000 dependent on the subject(s), grade level(s) requested and number of schools and students required for participation in the assessment as outlined in the Technical Specifications for the Conduct of Below-State NAEP.

What is the application process?⁴

In order to be considered for Below-State NAEP participation, each entity must submit the following:

- Below-State NAEP request form⁵, to be received by January 15 of the year prior to the assessment; and
- Letter of intent⁶ to participate, to be received by February 15 of the year prior to the assessment.

For the 2014 NAEP assessment cycle, NCES reserves the right to limit the number of participants in Below-State NAEP. Each entity will enter into a contract with the NAEP contractors responsible for sampling and data collection; materials preparation, distribution and scoring; and analysis and reporting.

For more information on the requirements and application process of Below-State NAEP, please refer to the *Technical Specifications for the Conduct of Below-State NAEP*.

To view the assessment schedule for national and state NAEP from 2008 through 2017, please go to <http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/assessmentsched.asp>.

For enquiries on Below-State NAEP, please contact Gina Broxterman at:
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How is Below-State NAEP different from the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA)?

TUDA assessments have been conducted since 2002 as part of a study to determine the feasibility of including urban district assessment as a regular component of NAEP. Like TUDA, data from Below-State NAEP contribute to the overall national and state NAEP results, but there are also key differences between Below-State NAEP and TUDA:

- Below-state entities choose to participate in NAEP, while TUDA districts are invited to participate by the Governing Board.
- Below-state entities are responsible for funding the NAEP assessment in their area, while the federal government provides funding for TUDA districts.
- Below-state NAEP results will not be reported to the general public by the federal government, while initial TUDA results are reported by the federal government.

⁴ If January 15 or February 15 should fall on a weekend or a national holiday, the submission due date will be the next work day.

⁵ Sample and cost estimates for conducting Below-State NAEP will be provided to the entity upon receipt of the Below-State NAEP request form.

⁶ The letter of intent must acknowledge that the entity is responsible for all payments and costs, regardless of participation rate, as well as for gaining the cooperation of the sampled schools and students.