

NJDOE News

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New Jersey Students Participating in 2005 NAEP Assessments

Students at all grade levels throughout the state are participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP 2005). Over the next six weeks, students in <u>more than 300 New Jersey schools</u> will take the standards-based exams in reading, mathematics and science.

"NAEP is the only recognized way in which we can make valid comparisons of student performance from state-tostate," said Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "The schools that have volunteered to participate in this year's assessment will help provide New Jersey with valuable information about student achievement."

"We believe that our students can compete academically with students anywhere in the United States," said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. "The NAEP assessments tell us exactly where we stand and where we might need to concentrate our efforts to maintain our competitive edge."

Testing will be conducted during a six-week window that concludes March 4, 2005. The 300 schools expected to participate are located in 203 school districts. At least one school will participate in each of the state's 21 counties. Students in grades 4, 8 and 12 will complete assessments for reading, mathematics and science.

As was the case in 2003, nearly every school district sampled (203 of 211) reported that at least one of its schools will participate in NAEP exams. The sampling was conducted by Westat, the contractor hired by the National Center for Educational Statistics, the agency responsible for administering NAEP.

NAEP participation satisfies federal requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act for school district participation in NAEP, if they are eligible for and want to continue to receive their full Title I funding.

NAEP only reports state level results; it does not provide individual student, school, or district level reports. The state assessment reports contain disaggregated data in categories such as: gender, race, ethnicity, limited English proficiency, and students with disabilities. NAEP also reports background information on the students, school and school staff, such as the number of math teachers with a degree in mathematics education, or how many hours students watch television or read for pleasure.