

NAEP 2005



April 2005

The National Assessment of Educational Progress Newsletter

Issue 4

NAEP IS 40 Years Old!

In the early 1960's eight experts in statistics and educational measurement, along with six foundation members met with the U.S.

Commissioner of Education, Francis Keppel, to discuss the feasibility of a national assessment. An exploratory committee, the Exploratory Committee for the Assessment of Progress in Education (ECAPE), was convened in 1964. Several years of debate and planning followed with the first National Assessment administration in 1969.

The first subject areas assessed were citizenship, science, and writing. Since that time numerous other subject areas have been assessed nationally and state-level assessments were begun in 1990. NAEP continues today to be the only nationally representative and continuing assessment for what students should know and be able to do, thus providing an invaluable resource for educators, policy makers, researchers, and the general public.

Summary of NAEP 2005

Who was involved? Three-hundred and nine schools and more than 8,000 students that are representative of Colorado, were randomly selected for NAEP 2005 and participated in the assessments. At the majority of the participating schools, either grade 4 or grade 8 students were assessed in Reading, Mathematics or Science. A small number of schools participated in grade 12 Reading, Mathematics or Science assessments and in pilot tests of Civics, US History or Economics.

When did all this take place?

NAEP was administered January 24 through March 4, 2005. The assessments were administered by paid contract staff and took no longer than two hours, total.

Why is NAEP important to Colorado?

NAEP results can be used as a gauge to compare how Colorado's public school students are performing in comparison to the other states and jurisdictions (includes the Department of Defense schools overseas and domestic and Puerto Rico) and the nation. It is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment for what students should know and be able to do in key subject areas. It provides an invaluable resource for educators, policy makers, researchers and the general public.

When will the results be available?

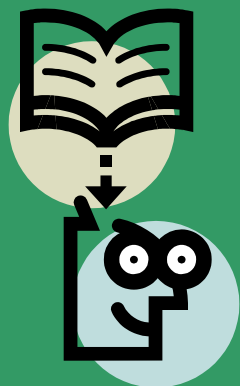
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- NAEP is designed to provide state and national results.
- State and national results for grades 4 and 8 in reading and mathematics, and national results for grade 12 in reading and mathematics are scheduled to be available in the fall.
- A press conference will be held at CDE to report the results.
- Each school that participated in the 2005 assessments will receive via US mail a state results report soon after the press conference.
- Science results will be available in the spring of 2006.
- Public access will be available to more detailed results on the new NAEP Data Explorer (information forthcoming).
- Districts that would like a presentation on using the NAEP Data Explorer may request one from the State Coordinator after the press conference.

In the 2003 Math assessment, fifty-six percent of Colorado's grade 4 students could correctly measure the length of one of the longer sides of a rectangle. Only fifty percent of the nation's grade 4 students answered the same question correctly.



Where can you
find sample
NAEP questions?



Check out the NAEP
Questions Tool at

[http://nces.ed.gov/
nationsreportcard](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard)

**For Additional
Information Contact:**

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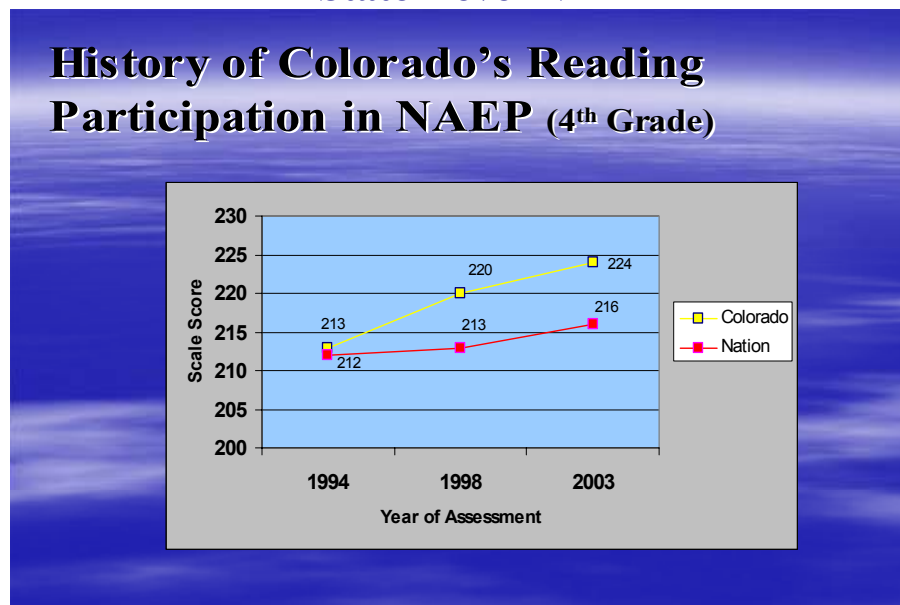
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Some Results from Colorado's Previous Participations

NAEP data is reported in a variety of formats that show student performance using scale scores, percentiles, and percentages of students at achievement levels. For additional NAEP results, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

Participation Over the Years in State-Level NAEP



2003 State Level NAEP: Eighth Grade Math

