



The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) or 'The Nation's Report Card' as it is sometimes referred to, is a multiple choice and free response style assessment administered annually nationwide to students in grades 4, 8, and most recently grade 12. It was established by Congress in 1969 to answer questions about student academic progress and results, which are tracked longitudinally and may be disaggregated by state (but not by town or district), have far reaching impact on policy decisions.

NAEP assesses Reading, Math, and Science in odd years and may assess other areas to include US History, Civics, Geography, Economics, World History, World Language, and the Arts in even years. In 2009, NAEP for grade 12 will be assessed in 12 states to include CT, MA, NH, and NJ. Conard is one of one hundred schools in CT that will administer the assessment and our participation is a matter of state law (whereas participation in NAEP may be voluntary in other states). We will assess a total of 85 (senior) students. Students are selected by the CSDE based on a stratified random sampling of students from across the state. This sample will not necessarily be representative of Conard's total population dependent upon the state's selection process.

Testing will occur on Monday, 23 February 2009, our first day back from vacation. The test will span no more than ninety minutes. Selected students will participate in two 'blocks' of a single subject area test (reading, math, or science) and answer a series of background questions. Students will be identified by 05 January 2009 which will initiate the brunt of the logistical planning. NAEP field staff will conduct a site visit in early January to assist in planning. My plan is to conduct staggered testing (multiple testing groups with different start times based on student schedules). Teachers will be asked to participate in proctoring in conjunction with NAEP field teams. Parent letters will be mailed to identified students and informational meetings will be scheduled.

Given that this is the first occurrence of grade 12 testing in which state level results will be available, CSDE anticipates that this will be a major media event with far reaching implications. NAEP results are widely publicized and referenced and compared (at times erroneously) to other state, national, and international assessments to include TIMMS, CAPT, and CMT. NAEP results are expected to continue to influence major policy decisions to include CT High School Reform, national curriculum debates, etc. CSDE has set an aggressive participation target of 90% among all identified students. Student, Parent, and Teacher understanding and support of the NAEP initiative is identified a critical factor in achieving this result.

Please address any questions or concerns to my attention - pv



Conard High School

110 Beechwood Road
West Hartford, CT 06107

16 January 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to tell you that our school has been selected to represent schools across our state and nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is given by the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what American students know and can do in key subject areas. It is the only ongoing nationally representative assessment that provides this valuable information.

NAEP has been given in schools for nearly 40 years. You may have taken the assessment yourself when you were in school. The results are published in a report called *The Nation's Report Card* which provides reliable student achievement information to educators, parents, and other citizens.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on **Monday, February 23rd, 2009** in reading, mathematics, and science. In addition, a few students may be assessed as part of a field test in other subjects including U.S. history, civics, and geography. Your child has been selected to take the assessment. In addition to subject area questions, students will be asked some background questions such as how often they use computers and what types of classes they take.

It will take approximately 90 minutes for students to complete NAEP. The results are completely confidential, and your child's grades will not be affected. Your child may be excused from participation for any reason, is not required to finish the assessment, and may omit any test question. While NAEP is voluntary, we depend on student participation to collect information on student achievement that will inform improvements in education. **Your child will represent many other students, so participation is very important.** However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by Monday, February 2nd.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP. We do ask parents to encourage their children's best efforts and to have them get plenty of rest the night before the assessment.

If you would like to have additional information about NAEP, please visit the web site at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. If you have questions or would like to review a booklet that includes the background questions and sample assessment questions, please contact me at 860.231.5004 or via e-mail at paul_vicinus@whps.org.

We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP, and we are pleased that your child has been selected. **We know that Conard's students will help us to show what American students know and can do!**

Sincerely,

Paul W. Vicinus, Jr.
Assistant Principal
Conard High School
860.231.5004
paul_vicinus@whps.org



Conard High School

110 Beechwood Road
West Hartford, CT 06107

16 Enero 2009

Estimado(a) padre o madre o guardián:

Tenemos el gusto de informarle que nuestra escuela ha sido seleccionada para representar a las escuelas de nuestro estado y de la nación en la Evaluación Nacional de Progreso Estudiantil, o NAEP por su sigla en inglés (National Assessment of Educational Progress). El Departamento de Educación de Estados Unidos lleva a cabo la NAEP cuyos resultados nos indican lo que los estudiantes del país saben y pueden hacer en las materias fundamentales. La NAEP es la única evaluación continua nacionalmente representativa que proporciona esta valiosa información.

La NAEP se viene realizando en las escuelas por casi 40 años. Es posible que usted mismo(a) haya tomado la prueba cuando estaba en la escuela. Los resultados se publican en un informe llamado *The Nation's Report Card* (La Libreta de Calificaciones del País) el cual proporciona información confiable a los educadores, padres y a otros ciudadanos sobre los logros de los estudiantes.

La evaluación NAEP se ofrecerá en nuestra escuela, **el Febrero 23rd, 2009** en lectura, matemáticas o ciencias. Además es posible que se evalúe a algunos niños en otras materias como parte de una prueba de campo. Su niño(a) (posiblemente sea/ha sido) seleccionado(a) para tomar la prueba. Además de las preguntas sobre las materias, a los estudiantes se les harán algunas preguntas acerca de sus experiencias tales como qué tan seguido usan una computadora y qué tipo de cursos toman.

A los estudiantes les tomará aproximadamente 90 minutos completar la evaluación de NAEP. Los resultados son completamente confidenciales, y no afectarán las notas de su niño(a). Su niño(a) puede ser excusado(a) de participar por cualquier motivo, no está obligado(a) a terminar la evaluación y puede dejar de responder cualquier pregunta de la prueba. Aunque participar en la NAEP es voluntario, dependemos de la participación de los estudiantes para reunir información sobre los logros de los estudiantes que servirá de base para hacer mejoras en la educación. **Su niño(a) representará a muchos otros estudiantes, de manera que la participación es muy importante.** Sin embargo, si usted no quiere que su niño(a) participe, por favor notifíqueme por escrito antes de Febrero 2nd, 2009.

No es necesario estudiar en preparación para la NAEP. Les pedimos a los padres que estimulen a sus niños para que hagan su mejor esfuerzo y que se aseguren que ellos descansen mucho la noche anterior a la evaluación.

Si usted desea tener información adicional acerca de la NAEP, por favor visite el sitio web en: <http://nationsreportcard.gov>. Si desea hacer alguna pregunta o ver un folleto que incluye las preguntas de antecedentes o acerca de las experiencias de los estudiantes, así como ejemplos de las preguntas de la evaluación, por favor comuníquese conmigo al 860.231.5004 o por correo electrónico al paul_vicinus@whps.org.

Estamos muy entusiasmados de que nuestra escuela participe en la NAEP, y tenemos mucho gusto en que su niño(a) (posiblemente sea/haya sido) seleccionado/a. **¡Sabemos que los estudiantes de Conard nos ayudarán a mostrar lo que los estudiantes del país saben y pueden hacer!**

Atentamente,

Paul W. Vicinus, Jr.
Director Asistente de la Escuela
Conard High School
860.231.5004
paul_vicinus@whps.org