

NEWS

Connecticut Department of Education



Dr. Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner

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Connecticut High School Seniors to be Part of National 12th Grade State Reading and Mathematics Assessment

Students in about 100 Connecticut high schools will take part in a new 12th grade state-level mathematics and reading pilot program for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) next year. NAEP, a program of the U.S. Department of Education, is the largest nationally representative assessment of what American students know and are able to do in a variety of subjects. The results from NAEP are called The Nation's Report Card because they report the educational progress of students across the nation.

While state-level results for 4th and 8th graders have been reported since 1990, only national data has been available to measure the progress of our nation's 12th graders. Starting with the 2009 administration of NAEP, however, Connecticut will be among the first 11 states that will have state-level data collected for high school seniors. The educational performance of 12th graders has been the topic of much media and policy attention and the results from this pilot will provide an additional indicator of academic achievement for Connecticut's seniors. The assessment will not report individual student test scores, but rather show how a representative sample of Connecticut's seniors performs academically compared to those in other states. Approximately 6,000 students will be selected to participate in Connecticut.

"Connecticut was one of the first states to take part in state-level NAEP for 4th and 8th grades; this student performance data has been helpful to us in improving instruction," said state education commissioner Mark K. McQuillan.

"There are many indications that NAEP is moving toward state-level Grade 12 assessments for all states in the future, and I believe that it is important for us to be a part of this effort from the beginning. The assessment will provide us with important data to consider as we move forward with our high school reform efforts and will serve as a component of our baseline against which we will measure our progress in improving the high school experience and raising standards of performance for Connecticut high school students."

In 2009, NAEP will be administered to a representative sample of students in over 19,000 schools. Over one million students nationwide will be tested in Grades 4, 8, and 12 on their knowledge of mathematics, reading, and science.

The schools and students that participate in the test represent other schools and students in their state and across the country. Students will be randomly selected to participate in one subject, and participation will take about 90 minutes. Students will be asked to respond to multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. NAEP does not report individual or school scores, but provides results at the state and national levels for major demographic groups.

For information on NAEP in Connecticut please contact Tom Murphy at thomas.murphy@ct.gov or 860.713.6525, or NAEP State Coordinator Renee Savoie at 860.713.6858 or at renee.savoie@ct.gov .

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