



# 2007 NAEP Pre-Release Briefing

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Informational and background data  
on the National Assessment of  
Educational Progress (NAEP)



# What is NAEP?

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- A national measure of student performance and how performance is changing over time.
- Students across the nation participate in the same assessment.
- The only tool that allows valid comparisons between a state and other states, or a state and the nation.
- Provides results for the nation and states.



# What are the NAEP achievement levels

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- National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) sets achievement levels (*Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*) that describe what students should know and be able to do.
- These achievement levels are independent of any state achievement levels.



# How is the test administered

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- NAEP measures student achievement using multiple-choice, short constructed response, and extended constructed response questions.
- NAEP assesses students with disabilities and English language learners using most of the accommodations that states use on their tests. In some cases, these students are excluded because NAEP does not allow an accommodation that a state allows, e.g. reading aloud the reading test.

# Who is tested?

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- NAEP assesses a representative sample of 4th and 8th grade students from each state in reading and mathematics every other year. These assessments are required by NCLB.
- NAEP also assesses either science or writing in states, along with reading and mathematics, on a rotating calendar and voluntary basis. In 2005, the additional subject was science. In 2007, it was writing
- NAEP also periodically samples 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students in other subjects such as arts, U.S. history, civics, and economics.



## Who is tested? (cont')

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- Not every student takes NAEP, and each participating student takes only a portion of the test.
- Student participation in NAEP is voluntary. However, some states do require that their students participate if they are selected for NAEP.



# How is NAEP different from a state assessment?

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- State assessments are designed to reflect individual state content standards.
- Track progress toward state education goals.
- Measure school and district adequate yearly progress (AYP) under NCLB.
- Provide state, district, school, and individual student data.

## How is NAEP different from a state assessment? (cont'd.)

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- On state assessments, every student is assessed in each subject/content area.
- By contrast, NAEP selects a sample of students for testing in each subject.
- State assessments are an annual *census* of all students in all subjects, and NAEP reflects a bi-annual/representative *sampling* students and their responses.





## How is data collected and analyzed?

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- About half of Wyoming fourth graders were assessed in NAEP Reading this year, the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  in mathematics.
- In eighth grade, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Wyoming's students were assessed in reading, mathematics, and writing respectively
- Data are collected and analyzed by the US Department of Education and its contractors

# How are the results reported?

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- Report Cards: Detailed information on national student performance at grades 4 & 8 (state data at grades 4 & 8).
- Highlights: Brief popular summaries with graphics of main state results at grades 4 & 8 and national results at grades 4 & 8.
- Snapshots: Brief web-based reports of results for individual states or districts participating in NAEP.
- Web
  - Data Tool: summary data tables
  - Questions Tool: released items and responses



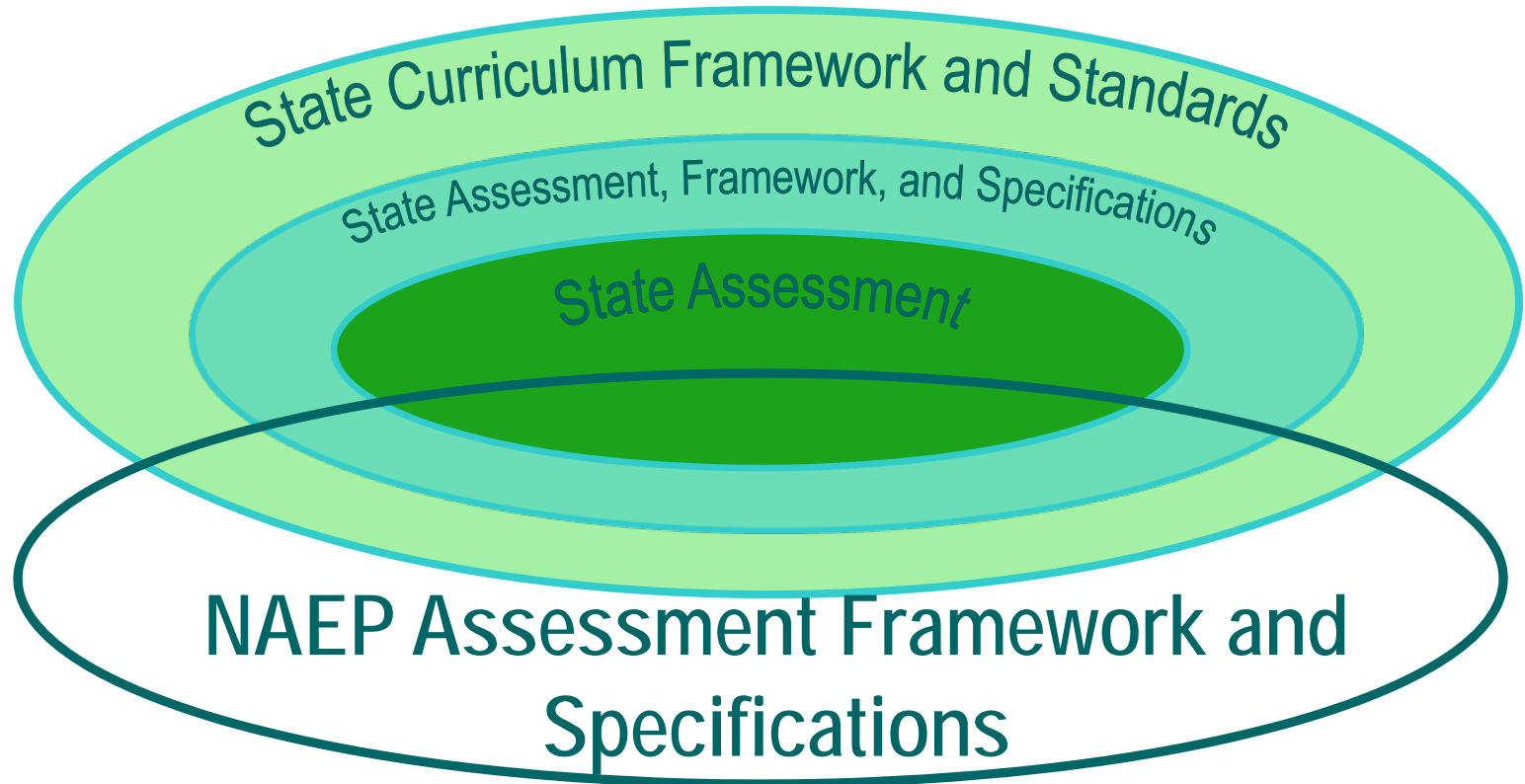
# How are the results used?

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- The President and Congress use NAEP results in setting education policy.
- State leaders and state educators use NAEP to compare their state with the nation and other states.
- Teachers can use NAEP assessment frameworks, sample questions, and scoring guides to help in designing lesson plans and tests.
- States are neither rewarded nor sanctioned based on their results

# What are frameworks and how does NAEP's differ from the state assessment

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Subject Area Domain

# NAEP Frameworks (cont.'d)

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- Frameworks describe the areas of knowledge and skill tested in NAEP
- For example, in NAEP Reading:

## CONTEXTS FOR READING

**Reading for literary experience** includes exploring events, characters, themes, settings, plots, actions, and the language of literary works by reading novels, short stories, poems, plays, legends, biographies, myths, and folktales.

**Reading for information** involves reading materials such as magazines, newspapers, textbooks, essays, and speeches in order to better understand the world.

**Reading to perform a task** requires readers to apply what they learn from reading materials such as bus or train schedules, directions for repairs or games, classroom procedures, maps, and so on.



## What to look for in report and website.

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- Two forms of reporting – report and website.
- Report provides an overview of specific areas of a state or national achievement
- Website provides comparison tools and question resources to examine the test and results more in-depth.
- Follow along on example



# What were Wyoming's results in 2005

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- Mathematics scores showed an increase in fourth grade mathematics since the assessment was given in 2003.
- Wyoming students scored above the national average in mathematics.
- The average Wyoming eighth grade math scores were 276 in 2000 while average scores in 2005 are 282.
  - The national eighth grade average was 278 in 2005.

# What were Wyoming's results in 2005. (cont')

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- Wyoming fourth and eighth grade reading scores remained unchanged from the previous assessment in 2003, and the state's fourth and eighth graders continue to score above the national average.
- However, Wyoming was one of only two state showing a significant gain in average eighth-grade reading scores from 2002.
- The national average score declined from 2003 to 2005 by a single scale point to 262 for eighth graders. The national average for fourth graders was 219, up one point.
- Only 3 states had reliably higher average scale scores than Wyoming's in eighth grade in reading.





# Release Date and Time

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- Tuesday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.
- Press conference and conference call
- Follow-up question call at 3:00 p.m.