

GOVERNING BOARD LEGISLATIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (NAEPAA)

Title III of P.L. 107-279

Updated June 2024

DUTIES	SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES
NAEP Assessment Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops recommendations and takes action on Assessment Schedule • NCES implements to the extend resources allow beyond mandatory assessments
Budgeting and Contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board oversees and manages NAGB budget and staff oversee contracts independently; Board policy informs NCES contracts and budget • NCES oversees and manages NAEP Assessment budget and contracts; looks to Board policy as needed; briefs the Board quarterly on budget and funding forecasts
Achievement Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board oversees and manages contracts to develop and takes action on NAEP Achievement Levels (including overarching policy and setting achievement levels for each NAEP assessment); reviews and initiates research on related issues, as needed • NCES uses NAEP achievement levels in reporting • NAEP achievement levels have been used on a “trial basis” since early 1990s, per the legislation. NCES Commissioner is authorized to remove the trial basis designation once the Commissioner determines, based on an independent evaluation, that the levels are reasonable, valid, and informative to the public
Design and Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops and takes action on guidelines for NAEP design and advises NCES on related matters (e.g., plans for adaptive testing) • NCES oversees and manages contracts for test design, data collection, analysis, etc.; makes decisions and provides direction to contractors on technical and design issues. • Board identifies needs and takes action to improve form, use, content, and reporting
Review and Evaluation of NAEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of Education initiates periodic independent reviews of NAEP design, methodology and achievement levels • Board and NCES review recommendations and determine impacts for program operations, including contracts, design, and trial designation of achievement levels
Assessment Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops and takes action on an Assessment Framework and Assessment & Item Specifications for each NAEP assessment • Board oversees and manages contracts for framework and specification development • NCES uses frameworks and specifications to develop assessment items; provides advice to Board on operational impacts of framework changes and future needs for item development; oversees contracts for development activities • Board has final authority on all assessment items
Contextual Questionnaires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops and takes action on Contextual Information Framework • NCES uses framework to develop contextual questions; oversees contracts for development activities • Board has final authority on all contextual survey questions
Reporting and Use of NAEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops and takes action on guidelines for reporting and disseminating results; reviews and gives input to NCES on Report Cards before release; and plans and executes the initial release of results • Board oversees and manages contracts for strategic communications and release events • NCES uses Board policy to conduct reporting activities; oversees and manages contracts for Report Card site and NCES NAEP communications; controls access to embargoed and restricted use data • NCES Commissioner determines timing for release of Report Cards, per OMB directives • Board identifies needs and takes action to improve form, use, content, and reporting
Release of Data & Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board develops and takes action on policy guidelines for release of assessment items • NCES consults with Board when making decisions about which items to release • NCES takes action to protect privacy and security of NAEP items and data