

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: LEGISLATIVE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NAEP

The National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (NAEPAA)

Title III of P.L. 107-279

Updated May 2, 2024

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