

Commissioner Update

May 26, 2009

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have one item for you in this update.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2010 Administration

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will be administered nationally in 2010 to students in Grades 4, 8 and 12. Results will be released for U.S. history, civics and geography. Pilot assessments also will be administered in mathematics and writing. Connecticut's participation in NAEP 2010 will be limited to the Grade 8 and Grade 12 writing assessments, which will be administered on computers exclusively. This is the first time the writing assessment has been administered in this way and the intention is that all future NAEP writing assessments for Grades 8 and 12 will be computer-based assessments. To read more about this new assessment and the skills it will measure, you may review the new NAEP Writing Framework at

<http://www.nagb.org/publications/frameworks.htm>.

Principals of the selected schools in Connecticut were notified during the week of May 11. Assessment dates will be communicated to each principal in June so that NAEP may be placed on the 2009-10 school calendar. All testing will take place from January 25 through March 5, 2010.

Is NAEP participation a requirement for Connecticut schools? Yes. Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-239i requires that districts selected for NAEP participate in the assessments. NAEP participation is a critical component of the statewide assessment system. It provides our state with contextual information with which to interpret Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test results. Since every student tested represents hundreds of other students, participation by every district selected is necessary in order to ensure that the NAEP results accurately represent the achievement of the students of our state and nation.

Who administers NAEP? Representatives of the NAEP field staff administer the assessment in Connecticut schools. School staff members are not responsible for administering NAEP.

How much time is required to administer NAEP? Most assessments require about 90 minutes, including time for directions. Since the computer-based assessment is new and in the field-testing stage, NAEP asks that schools allow up to 120 minutes for the assessments.

Will all students in the tested grade participate in the assessment? Approximately 30 students will be assessed. Therefore, if the enrollment in the tested grade (Grade 8 or Grade 12) is fewer than 30 students, all students will be assessed. If there are more than 30 students enrolled in the tested grade, a random sample of about 30 students will be selected by NAEP.

Will NAEP need access to school technology in order to administer the assessment?

No. NAEP field staff will bring 15 laptops to the school to be used to conduct the administration. This will require that two sessions be administered on assessment day. In order to standardize field testing across the country, the NAEP laptops will be used for every administration. School computers cannot be used.

How are results reported?

Since the writing assessment is a field test, we will not receive results for our state. However, we hope to gather useful information that may guide development of future computer-based testing efforts in our state.

Where can I find more information about NAEP?

The official NAEP website is:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

NAEP on the CSDE website is:

<http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/national/naep.htm>

The Connecticut NAEP State Coordinator, Renee Savoie, can be reached via e-mail at renee.savoie@ct.gov or by calling 860-713-6858.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education