

The National Assessment Governing Board:

- The Governing Board is an independent, bipartisan group whose members include governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives, and members of the general public.
- Congress created the 26-member Governing Board in 1988 to set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) -- commonly known as the "The Nation's Report Card."
- NAEP assesses samples of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 in various academic subjects. Results of the assessments are reported for the nation and states in terms of the Governing Board's achievement levels -- basic, proficient, and advanced.
- NAEP's goal, since its inception, has been to make available reliable information about the academic performance of American students in various learning areas. To this end, NAEP has produced more than 200 reports in 11 instructional areas.
- It provides the nation with the most reliable information we have on the patterns of academic achievement of American students going back over three decades. It gives some evidence to answer the popular question of whether or not the schools are improving.
- NAEP is an indicator of what students know and can do. Only group statistics are reported, no individual student or teacher data are ever released.