



Strategic Vision 2025



The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card, was developed in 1969 to answer the important question: "How are our nation's students doing?" In 1988, Congress created the independent, bipartisan National Assessment Governing Board to set policy for The Nation's Report Card, that is, deciding what subjects to assess, approving test and survey questions, determining achievement levels, and improving the reporting and use of results. Since that time, the Governing Board and its partner, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), have worked to safeguard NAEP as the "gold standard" assessment of educational achievement in the United States.

The Governing Board established its first Strategic Vision in 2016 with two major goals – to inform and to innovate – for the Board's work on behalf of policymakers, educators, researchers, business leaders, and the general public. The Governing Board's second Strategic Vision, which will guide the Board's efforts through 2024, adds a third goal, "to engage." This new goal in the Board's vision highlights the importance of not only reporting results accurately, but also in promoting their use:

- To serve as a catalyst for action to improve student achievement;
- To inspire improvement in the quality of assessments and standards; and
- To tell the stories of American achievement for all, over time and in context.



The Governing Board's new Strategic Vision comes at a time of worldwide disruption in education, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing educators to rethink long-held practices in teaching, learning, and assessment. Educators and policymakers alike are focused on educational equity with renewed commitment. The Governing Board will continue to partner with NCES to ensure NAEP remains the gold standard in assessment, providing objective information about the status and progress of American education at a time of significant disruption to our nation's schools and students.

The pandemic has heightened the need for the Governing Board to adopt a Strategic Vision that fulfills its Congressional mandate and preserves NAEP as a trusted, valuable resource that endures over time. Over the next four years, the Strategic Vision will guide the Governing Board as it strives to inform efforts to improve our nation's schools, innovate in carrying out its mandate, and engage stakeholders in understanding and using the results of The Nation's Report Card.





INFORM

The National Assessment Governing Board will disseminate NAEP resources to inform the work of numerous education stakeholders and to promote high-quality uses of The Nation's Report Card that support improvements in policy and practice. NAEP resources include results; focused studies; assessment questions and tasks; assessment innovations; and contextual variables about the educational experiences of students, teachers, and schools. The Governing Board will:

- **Identify** the needs of stakeholders and refine resources to promote sustained use of NAEP data, enabling educators, researchers, advocates, and policymakers to understand and improve student achievement.
- **Elevate** high-quality uses of NAEP resources to demonstrate NAEP's utility and to highlight the unique value of the Nation's Report Card to inform education policy and practice.
- **Link** NAEP resources with external data sources and disseminate what is learned from these sources so that NAEP can inform policy and practice in understandable and actionable ways.



INNOVATE

The National Assessment Governing Board will ensure The Nation's Report Card remains at the forefront of assessment design and technology by refining design, content, and reporting, increasing relevancy for NAEP users and inspiring action to improve achievement for all. The Governing Board will:

- **Optimize** the utility, relevance, and timing of NAEP subject-area frameworks and assessment updates to measure expectations valued by the public.
- **Monitor** and make decisions about the NAEP assessment schedule based on the Board's policy priorities of utility, frequency, and efficiency to ensure NAEP results are policy-relevant.
- **Develop** a body of evidence to improve the interpretation and communication of NAEP achievement levels to ensure that they are reasonable, valid, and informative to the public.



ENGAGE

The National Assessment Governing Board will strengthen partnerships and communications with stakeholder organizations, building capacity to understand and harness the resources of The Nation's Report Card to advance policy and practice. The Governing Board will:

- **Develop**, sustain, and deepen strategic partnerships to ensure that NAEP remains a trusted, relevant, and useful resource.
- **Help** stakeholders understand how the Governing Board and NAEP can illuminate important skills for postsecondary education pathways.

National Assessment Governing Board

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