



# Understanding Testing in America



**EDUCATIONAL TESTS MEASURE MANY DIFFERENT SKILLS AND ARE USED FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES.**



## INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDANCE

Teachers can use classroom assessments to continually adjust instruction to help each student learn.

- ✓ Quizzes and tests
- ✓ Written reports and oral queries
- ✓ Student presentations



## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

Schools, districts, or states may administer tests to assess student learning or preparedness for the next step in their education.

- ✓ Final course exams
- ✓ State tests
- ✓ High school exit exams



## ACCOUNTABILITY

Assessments may evaluate the progress of a particular school, educational program, teacher, or district toward statewide standards.

- ✓ State-mandated standardized tests



## NATIONWIDE ACHIEVEMENT

A nationally representative assessment can be given to a sample of students and provide a snapshot of achievement across subjects, demographic groups, and regions by nation, state, and large urban district.

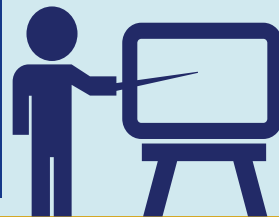
- ✓ The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



## PLACEMENT AND ADMISSIONS

Assessments can help determine whether a student is prepared for a particular course, course level, or educational program.

- ✓ Placement tests
- ✓ College admission exams



## WHAT MAKES NAEP UNIQUE:

### AN OBJECTIVE, VALUABLE MEASURE OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

NAEP—The Nation’s Report Card—is the country’s most respected continuing, independent, and nationally representative measure of student achievement in about a dozen subjects by nation, selected subjects by state, and selected large urban districts. NAEP is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education. The National Assessment Governing Board sets policy for NAEP.

- ✓ Gathers and reports nationally representative data on all states and for 27 large urban districts
- ✓ Shows comprehensive trends in student achievement for more than 40 years
- ✓ Provides parents, educators, and policymakers with important information to understand achievement and promote learning
- ✓ Identifies gaps in achievement among different demographic groups of students nationwide
- ✓ Collects information from students, teachers, and schools on factors related to student achievement including student study habits, classroom practices, and school resources.
- ✓ Ensures students randomly selected to participate in NAEP represent the nation’s geographical, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity. Each student only takes a portion of NAEP, reducing the burden on schools and on participants. It does not result in scores for individual students or schools and cannot be used for placement or teacher evaluation purposes.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NATION’S REPORT CARD, VISIT [WWW.NAGB.GOV](http://WWW.NAGB.GOV).**