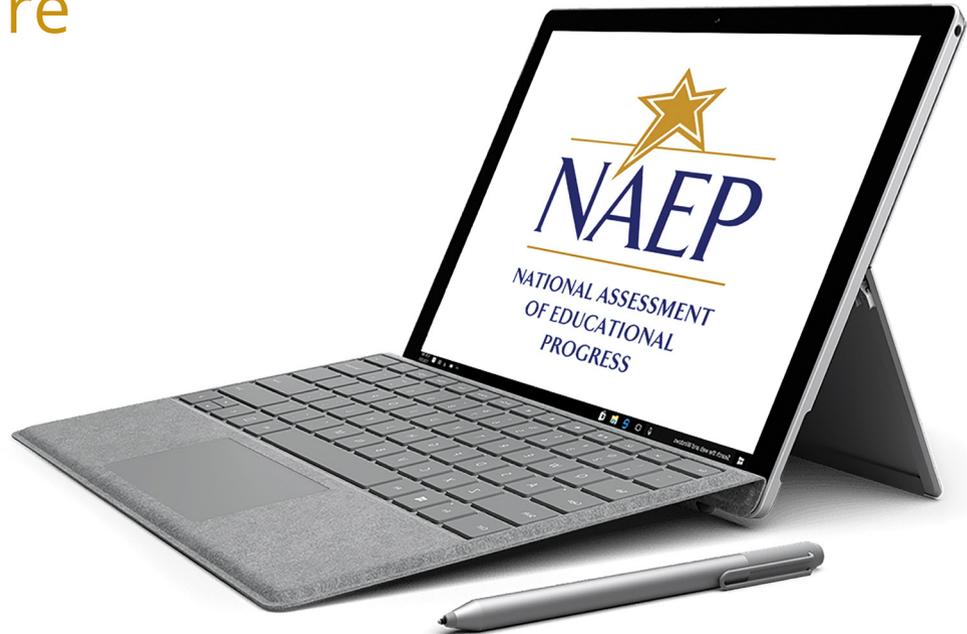# GOING DIGITAL

NAEP Assessments
for the Future

The **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** and the **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)** are paving the way to an enriched assessment experience for students with new, digitally based assessments. Designed to increase student engagement and accessibility, these new assessments allow NCES to more effectively measure and report on what students know and can do in various subjects.

Research and Development

NCES is a leader in research and innovation for large-scale assessments. The transition to digital assessments is driven by research focused on education theory, policy, cognitive science, and classroom practice—consistent with NAEP's reputation for high-quality, valid, and reliable assessments and data.

NCES is committed to capturing meaningful student data and maintaining trends—the ability to report on and compare changes in achievement over time. In this transition to new digital content, some of NAEP's paper-based questions were adapted for tablet use to help us understand the relationship between older paper-and-pencil and newer digital items.

NCES will continue to explore how to best use evolving digital technologies to provide relevant data about student achievement.

About NAEP Digitally Based Assessments

Today's students are digital learners and communicators, surrounded by rapidly-changing technology. NAEP digitally based assessments ensure that students are assessed in ways that reflect their classroom experiences and how they use technology.

These new assessments immerse students in real-world, problem-based scenarios that include dynamic texts, videos, animation, and innovative item types and formats. These new tasks challenge students to think critically, evaluate content, and solve problems. Digitally based assessments can capture richer information about student performance. This creates the opportunity to measure new aspects of achievement that are more difficult to capture through traditional paper-and-pencil assessments, including how students approach and solve problems, locate information, and use their time.

Digital assessments allow for a more efficient NAEP administration in schools and reduce printing, packaging supplies, and shipping. NAEP assessment staff bring all of the necessary equipment into schools on assessment day, including touchscreen tablets and keyboards, styluses, ear buds, and local network hardware.

Results from NAEP are reported annually as The Nation's Report Card. Special reports are released occasionally as well to provide a more detailed look at topics of interest to NAEP's audiences.

Features

NAEP digitally based assessments allow students to engage with a range of built-in tools and features. Universal design elements are available to all students and make the assessment more accessible for students with disabilities and for English learners. Students can interact seamlessly with the assessment and tailor the experiences to their preferences, including:

- Having questions read aloud in English and Spanish (in subjects other than reading and writing)
- Adjusting volume levels
- Taking digital notes
- Changing screen color themes
- Viewing closed captions

Across the range of subjects that NAEP assesses, students can:

- Highlight and zoom in on text
- Read rich and engaging, dynamic texts
- Analyze full-color maps, charts, photographs, and videos to demonstrate their knowledge of geography
- Use digital tools including rulers, calculators, and interactive graphs to perform mathematical tasks
- Engage with virtual simulations to apply knowledge of scientific concepts and principles to solve problems

Prior to beginning the assessment, students watch a tutorial that lets them try out the tools and practice entering and editing their responses. To watch this tutorial, visit https://enaep-public.naepims.org/2018/Tutorial_Intro_Webpage/index.html.

Explore more about the transition to NAEP digitally based assessments: https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba

Watch the *Going Digital: NAEP Assessments for the Future* video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RJ4k0I6h2c

Learn more about NAEP: https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/

NAEP NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS