





STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Special Education Directors

FROM: Bryan Klimkiewicz, Division Director 
Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer 

DATE: December 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Maximizing Inclusion on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Between January 26 and March 20, 2026, the [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#) (NAEP) will conduct assessments in Grades 4, 8, and 12 in approximately 180 Connecticut schools across 100 districts. Every selected school will assess up to 50 students.

NAEP assesses a sample of students statewide. This sample is designed to represent Connecticut's statewide student population. Therefore, maximizing the inclusion of students with disabilities and English/multilingual learners is critical to ensure that NAEP results truly reflect what our students know and can do. Additionally, participation of students with disabilities in the NAEP is one indicator that affects Connecticut's final determination on the results-driven accountability framework for implementation of IDEA. Connecticut has received the "Meets Requirements" designation for many years due partly to its consistently strong participation on the NAEP.

Last week, school staff began pre-assessment tasks, which include selecting test accommodations for students with disabilities and English/multilingual learners. NAEP has a variety of accessibility feature offerings and although the assessment may not offer the same depth or breadth of offerings that are available in Connecticut's state assessments (Smarter Balanced and NGSS), we encourage you to access available accommodations based on the student's needs to ensure maximum participation rather than excluding the student.

Please also note the following regarding NAEP:

- NAEP does not produce scores for individual students and participation is anonymous.
- The NAEP assessments do not impose any consequences for students, teachers, schools, or districts. NAEP results are intended solely to provide an overall measure of educational achievement for the nation and individual states.
- Participating students are not required to complete the entire test and may skip any test question. Even when a student does not complete the entire test, valuable information is obtained from the item responses provided.
- A parent notification letter is sent home to families of selected students. The letter explains the importance of NAEP and lets parents know that they may decide that their child will not participate.

We ask for your support in working with school special education staff to communicate the importance of inclusion on the NAEP and consider all the factors outlined in this memorandum before making a school-level decision to exclude the student from NAEP. Renee Savoie from the Performance Office will email those Directors with the schools from their district in the sample.

Thank you.