

Link between the National and International Assessments Planned for a 2011 Study

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is initiating a new effort to link national and international assessments so that states can compare their own students' performance against international benchmarks. The linking study, to be conducted in 2011, is intended to enable NCES to project state-level scores on the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) using data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

NAEP—also known as the Nation's Report Card—measures student learning in 50 states, several urban districts including the District of Columbia, and other U.S. jurisdictions in a way that permits comparisons over time to the nation and among the participating jurisdictions. The next NAEP fourth- and eighth-grade reading and mathematics assessments will be conducted in 2011. The NAEP science assessment will also be conducted at eighth grade in 2011.

TIMSS measures students' mathematics and science learning in more than 60 countries, enabling nations to compare their progress with that of other countries. Fourth- and eighth-grade students in the United States participate in TIMSS. The next TIMSS will be conducted in 2011. Unlike NAEP, TIMSS does not have an on-going state component.

In the linking study, two representative national samples will be tested on their knowledge of mathematics and science by taking both the NAEP and TIMSS assessments. One sample of 10,000 eighth-graders will take combined test booklets in the winter of 2011 as part of NAEP. The other sample of 7,500 eighth-graders will take combined test booklets in the spring of 2011 as part of TIMSS. The relationships between the two assessments of mathematics and science that are found in these two samples will permit state-level projections of how the students in the 50 states and the District of Columbia that took NAEP would have performed in eighth-grade mathematics and science on TIMSS, with scores that can be compared to those of other countries. In addition, eight states have agreed to administer TIMSS 2011 to state representative samples to ensure the accuracy of the linking projections. The eight states are: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and North Carolina.

For more information about NAEP, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

For more information about TIMSS, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/timss>

NAEP and TIMSS are administered by the National Center for Education Statistics within the Institute of Education Sciences.