

## NAEP News for Students with Disabilities

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is administered to a variety of schools and covers different content areas every year. The goal of the NAEP is to gather assessment data from a representative sample of all students in the nation, including students with disabilities (see [nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp)). NAEP administration is required by the Michigan School Code, but it is voluntary for students—that is, they may opt out by going through a special notification process. For students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) who are selected for NAEP testing, it is assumed that they will participate in the sample unless (1) they and/or their parents decide to have them opt out, (2) their IEP indicates they will not take part, or (3) the accommodations they require do not match the NAEP-allowed accommodations (see the *OEAA Assessment Accommodation Summary Table* at [www.mi.gov/mi-access](http://www.mi.gov/mi-access).) This year, there were some schools that assumed it was not a NAEP testing year and, therefore, wrote into IEPs that students would not have to participate in the NAEP. This caused several inadvertent problems later in obtaining permission from parents. To prevent these problems in the future, please review the accommodation procedures and ensure that parents and school staff understand the NAEP test cycles and inclusion practices.

Each year, NAEP draws its sample of schools and students from data submitted by the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). The NAEP testing cycle for the 2005/2006 school year ran from February to mid-March. This was a national sample year that involved the participation of 26 Michigan schools. The subjects tested were U.S. history (grades 4, 8, 12); civics (grades 4, 8, 12); and economics (grade 12). Next year is a Michigan sample so the sampling frame will be larger, covering 400 to 500 schools. The subjects for 2007 testing are reading (grades 4 and 8), mathematics (grades 4 and 8), and writing (grades 8 and 12). In addition, a small number of schools will be sampled for a twelfth-grade Participation and Engagement Study, which will assess whether students do better in the fall or winter on mathematics and reading assessments.

For more information on the NAEP, please go to [www.michigan.gov/naep](http://www.michigan.gov/naep) or contact Paul Stemmer, Michigan's NAEP coordinator, at [stemmerp@michigan.gov](mailto:stemmerp@michigan.gov).