



Minnesota

NAEP 2026 Inclusion Policy for English learners (EL)

Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading (Main)

Grade 8 Civics and U.S. History (National)

The Minnesota Department of Education expects that most English learners will be included on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Only English learners who have been **enrolled in U.S. schools for less than one (1) full academic year before the NAEP assessment and cannot access NAEP** may be excluded from any NAEP assessment. All other English learners should participate in NAEP with or without NAEP-allowed accommodations. If you have questions about the NAEP accommodations, please contact Jenny Cain, NAEP State Coordinator at jennifer.cain@state.mn.us.

Several accommodations provided on the state assessments are not necessary for the NAEP assessments because they are available for all students through universal design elements. The chart below is divided into three sections: (1) universal design elements that are available to all students, (2) accommodations provided by the test delivery system, and (3) accommodations provided outside the test delivery system. NAEP accommodations are only allowed for English learners.

Please keep in mind that NAEP does not produce results for individual students or schools, unlike the state assessments. In other words, the NAEP assessments do not impose consequences for the student or the school and are instead intended purely to provide a picture of educational performance and progress.

Please note all assessments are not the same and are developed to measure specific constructs. Therefore, NAEP may not allow or support all accessibility features and accommodations of the state assessments. The following are the expectations for inclusion on NAEP:

- All students are allowed to have and use a stylus to navigate the NAEP App. Styluses must be provided by the school.
- All students are required to have and use headphones/earbuds during the administration. The school can provide, or students can bring their own. If the school or students cannot provide their own, the team of NAEP representatives can provide students with earbuds.
- At the beginning of the assessment, students complete a brief, interactive tutorial. The tutorial teaches the students how to navigate within the NAEP App and the tools available for use during the assessment, including the universal design elements (UDEs).
- Each student is assigned to take only one NAEP subject, please pay close attention to this subject. If the student requires an accommodation that is subject specific, but is not taking that subject, then it is not necessary to include this accommodation for the student on NAEP.
- If you do not see the support or accommodation a student requires, please contact your NAEP State Coordinator.
- Typically, NAEP assessment sessions are 25 students or less and distractions are minimal (see the Individual Testing Experiences UDE). If the student needs to test in a smaller group setting, then the student should take the NAEP assessment with the Separate Location/Small Group accommodation.
- Students who use the Flexible Testing Time universal support for the MCAs should take the NAEP

assessments with the Extended Time and/or Breaks as Needed accommodations. During the NAEP assessments, students only take up to 60 minutes of subject-matter content, which is much shorter than the MCAs.

- A note about the MCA's Different Time of Day universal support: the school decides the start time for the NAEP assessment sessions, so the school can plan for a different time of day testing without selecting an accommodation.
- Paper Test Books (Regular and/or Large Print) are not allowed on the NAEP assessment.
- Script/Human Reader is not allowed on the NAEP assessment.
- Graphic Organizers are not allowed on the NAEP assessment.
- For the NAEP Reading Assessment: Read Aloud Form, Text-to-Speech, Script/Human Reader, Recording a Reading Test, and English Glossary are not allowed on the NAEP Reading Assessment.
- Word-to-Word Translations Using Word Lists, Word-to-Word Translations and Glossary Using Word Lists, and/or Pop-Up Translations are not allowed on the NAEP assessment. If a student uses one of these MCA universal supports, consider the Bilingual Dictionary (in any language) accommodation. Please note that the Bilingual Dictionary accommodation is not allowed on the NAEP Reading Assessment.

**Table 1: NAEP Universal Design Elements available to all students
Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading; Grade 8 Civics and U.S. History -- Digitally Based Assessment
on Device**

Universal Design Element	Description
Zooming	<p>Enlarges some content onscreen up to two times (2X) the default text/image size on the screen while preserving clarity, contrast, and color.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not include the tutorial, toolbar, item tabs, scrollbars, calculator, and equation editor.
Individual Testing Experience	<p>Read Aloud and other UDE and accommodations are provided through the device and will not distract other students in the room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have earbuds to reduce distractions. Students interact directly with device. Tested with other selected students. Refer to the accommodation <i>Preferential Seating</i> to minimize distractions for testing with other students. <p>State notes: All students are required to use headphones/earbuds. Typically, assessment sessions are 25 students or less. If a student requires a smaller group setting (less than 25 students), consider the Separate Location/Small Group accommodation.</p>
Directions Read Aloud/Text-to-Speech (English)	All directions in the assessment are text-to-speech enabled, including general directions, directions within the assessment, Tutorial, Help, and Student Questionnaire screens.
Directions Explained/ Clarified	Students can raise their hand at any time and ask the test administrator to clarify or explain directions.
Read Aloud/Text-to-Speech (English) – Occasional or Most or All	<p>Not Available for Reading.</p> <p>Students select some or all text to be read aloud by the system using text-to-speech.</p> <p>State notes: There is no limit on the number of times a section can be read aloud. For the NAEP Mathematics assessment, all math expressions are read aloud.</p>
Use a Computer/ Tablet to Respond	<p>All students respond on devices.</p> <p>State notes: The NAEP App requires that devices have a physical keyboard. All students are allowed to use a mouse and/or stylus (provided by the school), if they want.</p>

Universal Design Element	Description
Color Theming	<p>Option 1: black text on white background (default)</p> <p>Option 2: white text on black background</p> <p>Option 3: black text on beige background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This tool is not available for the tutorial and some items.
Scratchwork/ Highlighter Capability	Allows freehand drawing and highlighting on the screen for most content.
Elimination Capability	<p>Students can gray out answer choices for multiple-choice items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This tool is not available for constructed-response items.
Volume Adjustment	<p>Students can raise or lower voice-over volume using the device's volume buttons.</p> <p>State notes: All students are required to use headphones/earbuds and can adjust all audio to their preferred volume.</p>
Closed Captioning	All voice-over narration is closed-captioned.
Scratch Paper	Administrators inform students that scratch paper (and pencil) is available upon request.

**Table 2: NAEP accommodations provided by test delivery system.
Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading; Grade 8 Civics and U.S. History -- Digitally Based
Assessment on Device**

Accommodation	Description
Extended Time	<p>Students are given up to three times (3X) the allotted time to complete the assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If state test is untimed, students may or may not require extended time on NAEP. Most students are able to complete the NAEP cognitive sections in the time allowed. <p>State notes: The NAEP assessment gives students up to 60 minutes of subject-matter content. The NAEP assessment must be administered in one school day. Consider this accommodation for students who use the Flexible Testing Time universal support for the MCAs.</p>

Accommodation	Description
Directions Only Translated to Spanish and Directions Read Aloud/Text-to-Speech (Spanish)	<p>All directions are provided in Spanish and English, including the tutorial. A toggle button is available on the screens to go back and forth between Spanish and English. All Spanish translated content is text-to-speech enabled. The tutorial is also available in Spanish.</p> <p>State notes: The NAEP representatives give verbal directions at the beginning of the administration. The school may need to provide a staff member who can read the Spanish version of these directions to the students. NAEP will provide a translated script.</p>

**Table 3: NAEP accommodations provided outside the test delivery system.
Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading; Grade 8 Civics and U.S. History – Digitally Based
Assessment on Device**

Accommodation	Description
Breaks During Test	<p>Students are allowed to take breaks as requested or at predetermined intervals during the assessment. Students can take the assessment in more than one sitting during a single day.</p> <p>State notes: The NAEP assessment gives students up to 60 minutes of subject-matter content. The NAEP assessment must be administered in one school day. Consider this accommodation for students who use the Flexible Testing Time universal support for the MCAs.</p>
Separate Location/Small Group	<p>Student is tested in a separate location to meet testing needs as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the UDE <i>Individual Testing Experience</i> and accommodation <i>Preferential Seating</i> to determine if separate location/small group is needed. May be in the same room but in a specific location or a different room. Can be individual or with a small group of students. <p>State notes: Typically, NAEP assessment sessions are 25 students or less. And schools decide on what space to use for the administration. Consider this accommodation if the student requires a group setting of less than 25 students; uses the Individual or Small-Group Setting universal support for the MCAs; and/or uses the Environment universal support for the MCAs. Please note that some NAEP accommodations may require students to be tested in a separate location.</p>
Familiar Person Present in Testing Room	<p>The aide who regularly works with the student must be present in the testing room during time of assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only trained NAEP staff may conduct the assessment session.

Accommodation	Description
Uses Template	<p>Provided by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutout, masking, color overlays, line reader, or place marker.
Special Equipment	<p>Provided by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FM system, amplification equipment, auditory amplification device. • Noise buffers, study carrel, blinder, special lighting, adaptive furniture. • Stress ball or sensory fidget item.
Preferential Seating	<p>Provided by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating to reduce distractions within the general testing session. • Front of the class, close to the test administrator, etc.
Cueing to Stay on Task	<p>Provided by a school staff member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for understanding, monitor placement of responses. • Redirect to stay on task, reminders to stay on task, prompts to stay on task. • Provide verbal encouragement, reinforcement, refocus. • Track test items. <p>State notes: In Minnesota, students may only receive verbal or visual cues that redirects their attention to the test or provides encouragement (for example: it is important that you do your best, focus on taking your test, you can do this). Students may not receive coaching or assistance on the test in any way, including guidance on test content or test-taking or academic strategies (including guidance on universal design elements).</p>
Bilingual Dictionary (in any language)	<p>Not Available for Reading.</p> <p>A handheld electronic or hardcopy bilingual dictionary provided by the school in any language that contains English translations of words but does not contain definitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also known as a word-for-word dictionary, word-to-word translation dictionary, or a bilingual word list. <p>State notes: Similar to the Word-to-Word Translations Using Dictionaries or Programs universal support of the MCAs. Consider this accommodation for students who use Word-to-Word Translations Using Word Lists, Word-to-Word Translations and Glossary Using Word Lists, and/or Pop-Up Translations for the MCAs.</p>
Other (specify)	<p>Any accommodation not listed above. Please check with your NAEP State Coordinator to see if other accommodations are allowed on NAEP.</p> <p>State notes: This accommodation is similar to the MCA's Approved Accommodatoin request. Please contact your NAEP State Coordinator before completing the request in the AMS.</p>