

## Questions & Answers

Below are questions and answers about the NAEP Cooperative Agreement awards.

- 1. May I submit multiple applications?** Yes, you may submit multiple applications if the applications are substantively different from one another. Each application must stand alone and comply with all requirements of the RFA.
- 2. May I apply if I am not located in the United States? Can I collaborate with others located outside the United States?** You may apply if you are outside the United States, and you may collaborate with others outside the United States. However, please take into account in your application the restriction that all work must be performed by U.S. citizens and that restricted-use data and other non-public data may not leave the United States under any circumstance.
- 3. May I submit an application for a prototype, proof of concept, or research study that will be conducted in phases?** Yes. Submissions could be to establish a prototype, conduct a proof of concept, or conduct a specific phase of a study. Funding for such a prototype, proof of concept, or phase does not guarantee funding beyond the original award.
- 4. Can the project team include support for a doctoral student? Does the application require a CV from the doctoral student if he or she has been identified?** The project team can include support for a doctoral student. However, a CV is not required for a doctoral student or other non-key staff.
- 5. Does the budget require an allocation for travel to Washington, DC, for consultation with NCES staff?** An allocation for travel to Washington, DC, can be included in your budget but is not required. Please include it if you believe it would be best for your project.
- 6. The maximum length of the application is 10 pages. Does this include the bibliography?** No, a bibliography does not count toward the 10-page limit.
- 7. Who can I contact if I have other questions, or questions specific to contractual relationships?** Please contact us at [NAEP\\_RD@air.org](mailto:NAEP_RD@air.org).
- 8. How long can proposed projects last?** The period of performance should be for a maximum of 12 months. Applications should describe work and deliverables that can be completed within this time frame.

9. **When will the 2019 NAEP data be available?** We will assess students from the last week of January 2019 until the first week of March. After the data have been analyzed and cleaned, the results should be ready by early spring 2020.
10. **Does NAEP have data for all school districts?** No, NAEP is designed to report results at the national and state levels and for selected urban districts (those participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment, or TUDA). For more information on NAEP's methods and procedures, please see the *NAEP Technical Documentation on the Web* at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tdw/>.
11. **Is it necessary to identify NCES staff to work with?** No, it is not necessary to identify specific NCES staff. If you identify the types of information and/or support you need, we can help connect you to the appropriate NCES staff.
12. **What is the deadline for submitting questions after the conclusion of this webinar?** Questions can be submitted any time up to the application close date of October 30. E-mail questions to [NAEP\\_RD@air.org](mailto:NAEP_RD@air.org). Q&As will be posted and updated on the website until the application close date.
13. **Can universities collaborate on a project?** Yes, they can. As a matter of fact, we encourage collaboration because it is a good way to foster new ideas.
14. **Will more TUDAs be conducted in the future?** There is a possibility that more TUDAs will be added to future administrations of NAEP; the [National Assessment Governing Board](#) (NAGB) will make this determination.
15. **The application instructions suggest additional NAEP research funding might be available in the future. Is that correct?** Yes, it is. The intent is to have an annual application process for cooperative agreements; however, this will be dependent on NCES's budget and other priorities. Please check for updates at [naep-research.airprojects.org](http://naep-research.airprojects.org).
16. **What is the best way to get data to analyze trends?** You will need to get a restricted-use data license from NCES to access these data. Please see the instructions on how to obtain a restricted-use data license at <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/licenses.asp>.
17. **Can you be more specific about the secondary analysis topics?** No, we are looking for ideas. We suggest that potential applicants familiarize themselves with NAEP and suggest new ideas.
18. **Will travel for any meetings be required?** No, travel will not be required.

19. **Do NAEP data include data from the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)?** NAEP data do not include data from the CRDC. However, it may be possible to link the NAEP and CRDC data in the future. Remember that both sampling and psychometric considerations need to be taken into account when data are linked.
20. **Do NAEP state data include background questionnaire data?** Yes, NAEP state data include background questionnaire data. All questionnaires can be found on the NAEP website at [https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/experience/survey\\_questionnaires.aspx](https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/experience/survey_questionnaires.aspx). In addition, the NAEP Data Explorer (NDE) and other online applications to explore the data are available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/datatools2.aspx>.
21. **Are the national NAEP questionnaires the same as those used in the state NAEP program?** Yes, the questionnaires are the same. Please note that results for both public and private schools are available at the national level and that results for public schools are available for state and TUDA data.
22. **When can projects begin?** Projects can begin December 1, 2018.
23. **Can the start date be after December 1?** Yes, the start date can be after December 1. Please provide a schedule in your application.
24. **Can ideas under “product development” be related to outreach (e.g., developing content for brochures or videos to promote new NAEP resources)?** Yes, projects can identify new content and/or mechanisms for promoting NAEP.
25. **We are not part of the NAEP Alliance, but we are contractors for NAEP. Can we submit an application?** Eligible applicants include any individual or team that does not hold a prime contract under the Education Statistics Services Institute Network (ESSIN) or NAEP Alliance contracts.
26. **Is it possible to have a 12-month timeline for my project from the end of April 2019 to spring 2020?** Yes, it is possible. Please include a schedule in your application.
27. **How many awards will be given out?** The number of awards made will be based on the availability of funding and on the number of applications received that are aligned with NCES priorities.
28. **Am I required to follow the format in the Excel spreadsheet that was linked as part of the submission material?** We provided the template as an option. Another template is acceptable as long as a budget is submitted with your response.

29. **Will funds be transferred to the Principal Investigator (PI) in one sum, as is typical of grants, or in separate installments, based on the receipt of deliverables?** Payment will be based on the receipt of work and can be in installments.
30. **Where can I find a link to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Cooperative Agreements informational webinar?** There is a link to the webinar on our website at <http://naep-research.airprojects.org/Agreements/Index>.
31. **I have written the Collaboration Section of my application. However, I see that you are also requesting a Needs section, and, in my case, I am not sure how this will differ from the Collaboration section.** If you provided information on how your team intends to collaborate with NCES in the Collaboration section, please note in the Needs section that the reviewers should refer to the Collaboration section for that information.
32. **Is there someone I can contact to learn more about whether my proposed research is a good fit for the NAEP Cooperative Agreements?** No, we will review all applications at the end of the application period.
33. **Would you consider funding a research proposal that proposes a new statistical approach for analyzing NAEP's achievement gaps?** Yes, a proposal for a new statistical approach for analyzing NAEP's achievement gaps would be aligned with the funding priorities.
34. **Should my secondary data analysis focus on trends across 1969 to 2019? Or can I focus on the data after 1984 (when ETS implemented the new design)?** The analysis of trends does not need to cover the full period from 1969 to 2019. Yes, you may focus on the data after 1984.
35. **Under a cooperative agreement, what variables would be available for each year?** All item-level variables, as well as assessment and background variables, are included in the restricted-use ddata (RUD) files. Variable descriptions are provided in codebooks, which are part of the RUD files. To find out what variables are available for each year, please search from <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/ndecore/xplore/nde>.
36. **We have faculty who are salaried and devoting a certain percentage of their effort to this project. Should I combine their salaries and benefits and divide the total by the estimated number of hours? Can I place all of our expenses in the Deliverable 1 column?** The budget template is provided only for your convenience and you are not required to use it; instead, you may use a format more suited to your organization. In addition, it is up to the project team to decide what work products to show as deliverables. If your organization wishes to show one price for the complete project, then you would place the costs for all deliverables in the same column. However, some

organizations may wish to list multiple deliverables and provide a price for each one.

- 37. We have a few questions for which we would like clarification. Would you be available for a brief phone conference?** An informational webinar was hosted on October 2. Please review the recording of this session and the Q&A posted on the [website](#). If you have further questions, you may send them to [NAEP\\_RD@air.org](mailto:NAEP_RD@air.org).
- 38. Are there any restrictions regarding indirect costs as part of the burdened totals of the budget, as we have a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) in place?** There are no restrictions on indirect rates.
- 39. Is Human Subjects Research permitted and covered under the umbrella contract? Please advise whether an institutional review board (IRB) application would be necessary.** The American Institutes for Research has its own IRB that works to ensure that projects involving human subjects comply with professional standards and government regulations designed to safeguard participants. The current contract under which these cooperative agreements fall has exempt IRB status. However, we will work with the AIR IRB to determine if the awarded cooperative agreements fall under the current classification or would need additional information for approval. In both cases, AIR will help the cooperative agreement teams with the process if their work involves human subjects.
- 40. Are there any restrictions on sharing/reporting results; if there are, what would be needed for the project results to be shared and published at conferences and publications?** Typically, NCES encourages presenting at professional conferences. However, there may be restrictions based on the data used and other NAEP releases. You may share your ideas about dissemination in your proposal; awardees will work with NCES to determine appropriate dissemination activities.
- 41. The webinar mentioned the possibility of additional training sessions through NCES. I'd like to learn more about the training possibilities and take part in the next training session, but it was unclear whether I could include this as part of my project/application.** You can include your intention to apply for the next NAEP Data Training Workshop in your proposal. Please note that the NAEP Training Workshops are separate from the Cooperative Agreements. For more information about the NAEP Data Training Workshop on our website, see <http://naep-research.airprojects.org/Training/Index>. Applications for the next training workshop will be available in the near future.
- 42. Can individuals apply for a 2018 NAEP Cooperative Agreement, or must applications be submitted through an organization?** Yes, individuals may apply.