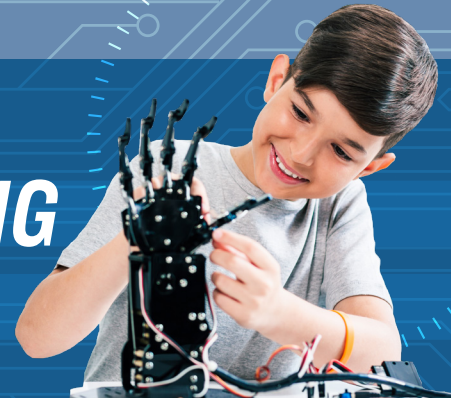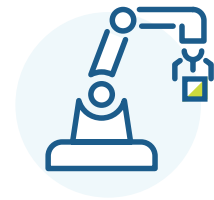# TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING LITERACY ASSESSMENT

In response to the increasing role of technology in students' lives, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) administers the Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) assessment – the first one of its kind in the United States. TEL adds valuable information to what NAEP reports for science and mathematics.

What is Technology and Engineering Literacy?

Students who are literate in technology and engineering can use, understand, and evaluate technology. They can understand the technological principles and strategies that are needed to develop solutions and achieve goals. This includes students being able to use various technologies to communicate and collaborate.

Why is it important?

Technology and engineering skills are an integral part of students' everyday lives and will be critically important as they continue their educations and enter the workforce. Since technology is also integrated into other subjects, students require strong skills in this area to excel in all aspects of their coursework.

About the assessment

The computer-based assessment, administered to eighth grade public school students nationwide, asks students to complete collaborative, multimedia tasks and solve practical problems based in real-world contexts. It focuses on three major areas:

Technology & Society

Students' understanding of the effects of technology on society and the natural world, which equips them to grapple with related ethical questions.

Sample task: Develop an online exhibit for The Smith Museum about how Chicago addressed its water pollution problem in the 1800s.

Design & Systems

Students' understanding of engineering design processes, including basic aspects of managing everyday technology such as maintenance and troubleshooting.

Sample task: Design a safe bike lane, meeting specific requirements and accounting for tradeoffs between options, including cost and safety.

Information & Communication Technology

Students' ability to use technologies for accessing, creating, and communicating information, as well as facilitating creative expression.

Sample task: Create content for a website promoting the benefits of a new teen recreation center to local business owners who oppose the center.

To learn more, visit **www.nagb.gov**.

The National Assessment Governing Board sets policy for NAEP.