



Grade 12 NAEP: Measuring Preparedness for College and Work

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National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Long history of providing a “Nation’s Report Card” of educational progress

Proposed future to provide an assessment of “preparedness” for post-secondary education and work



My role today

- Summarize Final Report of the Technical Panel on 12th Grade Preparedness Research
- Offer comments on other issues related to reporting preparedness, especially for work training



Technical Panel on 12th Grade Preparedness Research

- Michael Kirst (Chair), Stanford University
- John Campbell, University of Minnesota
- David Conley, University of Oregon
- Michael Kane, National Conf of Bar Examiners
- Mark Milliron, Catalyze Learning International
- Robert Mislavy, University of Maryland
- George Thornton, Colorado State University



Purpose of Technical Panel

- Assist NAGB in planning research to report preparedness for college and job training
- Met several times over 2 years



“Preparedness”

Reading and math skills
needed to enter
post-secondary education,
occupational training,
military training



“Preparedness” does NOT include:

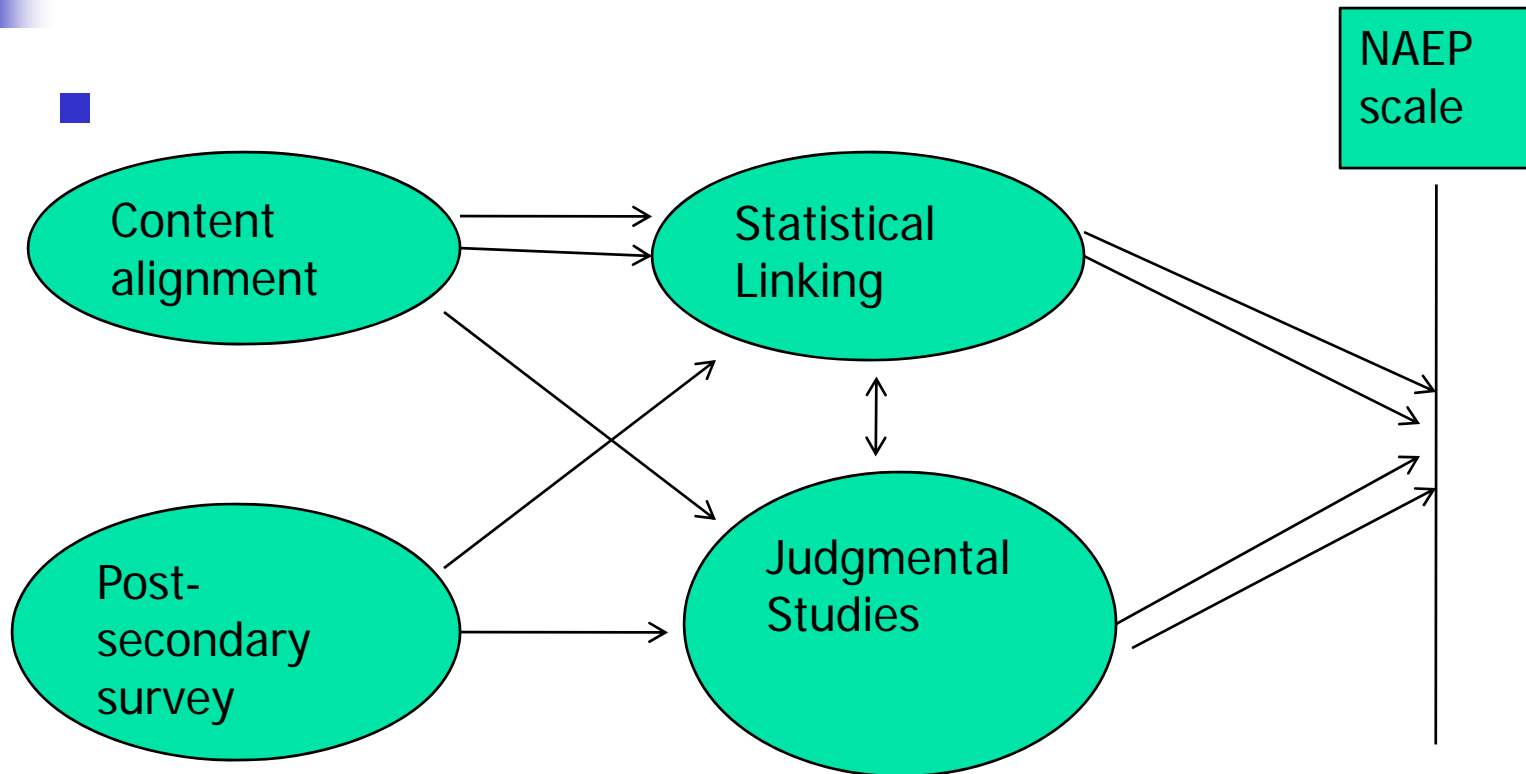
Other knowledge, skills, abilities,
personality attributes needed for
success in training or work



Key Recommendations

- Use variety of research methods

Relationships among multiple types of studies





Key Recommendations cont'

- Focus on reading and math skills
- Contribute unique indicators in relation to other assessments
- Be mindful of evolving context
- Conduct research as an iterative process



Comments on related issues

Is NAEP assessing the “right stuff” ?

- Yes! Reading and Math Skills are essential

Are other attributes important? Should NAEP assess them?

- Yes
 - General mental ability (IQ)
 - Conscientiousness
 - Emotional intelligence (EQ)
 - ...
- No
 - “Stick to your knitting”

Should NAEP set a standard for preparedness?

- Or, show reference points relating scores to various levels of preparedness?
- State single clear standard
 - “Score X on NAEP reading indicates preparedness for...”
- Make statements about the percent of students “prepared”

Should NAEP develop different standards for...



- 4-year universities
- 2-year colleges
- Technical programs
- “Viable” jobs/occupations
- Military training
- This is an empirical question answered by the research

Should NAEP report preparedness at *state* level?

- Risky
- State's choice
- If a State accepts risk,
- My answer: Yes

Important to study preparedness for work



- Organizations lament lack of preparedness of high school graduates
- NAEP tests appear to measure relevant attributes
- Tests may need revision to capture content more directly related to workforce preparedness

30 – 40% of workers enter job market without college degree

- 20% of high school graduates do not go to college; 25- 35% freshmen do not graduate
- BLS estimates of % of jobs filled with individuals with less than college degree
 - 28% of all jobs
 - Larger % in some occupations



“Viable” occupations

- College degree not required
- Living wage
- Considerable training requirements
- At least medium reading and math skills
- Level 2 in ONET, In demand
- Non-trivial numbers employed



Exemplar jobs (ONET code)

- Electrician (47-211.00)
- Auto mechanic (49-3023.01)
- Medical and clinical lab tech (29-2012.00)
- Insurance sales agent (41-3021.00)

- <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

Assess preparedness for lower level jobs?

- No
- Reading and math requirements are different from the content/level of NAEP

Should NAEP report preparedness for work?



- Yes! We need a “Nation’s Work Skills Inventory”
- Organizations lament lack of preparedness
- NAEP tests appear to measure relevant attributes
- Tests may need revision to capture content more directly related to workforce preparedness

BLS estimates for Non-college Occupations

- Increase in employment in:
 - Management, business, financial
 - Service
 - Construction
 - Installation, maintenance, repair

Viable jobs in several occupations



Conclusions

High potential that NAEP measures preparedness

Multi-year research program

Balance of studies on preparedness for college, work, and military

Congratulations to NABG for past; best wishes for future