



The Nation's Report Card: 2016 Arts

Students use their knowledge and experience in the arts to understand themselves and the world around them. Through the arts, students discover how to make decisions, express themselves, learn from their mistakes, view life from multiple perspectives, and develop discipline – skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

The Nation's Report Card and the Arts

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) – also known as The Nation's Report Card – is the country's only nationally representative measure of student achievement in nearly a dozen subjects. For almost 50 years, NAEP results have been an unparalleled source of information on what U.S. students know and can do.

By assessing students' knowledge and skills in visual arts and music, the **2016 NAEP Arts Education Assessment** makes an important statement about the value of the arts in students' education. The assessment also highlights how the availability of resources and opportunities in arts education – such as full-time teachers in the arts, experience playing instruments, engagement in artistic expression in class and outside of class, and exposure to museums and musical performances – may relate to student achievement.



Learn more about the
2016 NAEP Arts Report
Card at www.nagb.gov.



Design of the NAEP Arts Assessment

The National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for NAEP, engaged K-12 and postsecondary arts educators, practicing artists, researchers, assessment specialists, and members of the public to shape the **2016 NAEP Arts Education Assessment Framework**, providing a clear blueprint for assessing skills in dance, music, the visual arts, and theatre. The framework specifies the scope and methodology of the NAEP arts assessment.

Tasks on the NAEP arts assessment measure students' knowledge and skills related to creating and performing art, as well as to responding to art. The assessment includes authentic creative tasks that students complete, such as finishing a rhythmic pattern with musical notes and creating a collage after studying a famous one. Student achievement on this assessment is reported both quantitatively, with scale scores, and qualitatively, with expert evaluation of student performance.

NAEP tested a nationally representative sample of eighth-grade students in music and the visual arts in 1997, 2008, and 2016. Theatre was also assessed among a targeted sample of schools in 1997, but due to budget constraints and the limited number of schools offering programs in dance and theatre, those disciplines were not included in the 2008 or 2016 assessments. About 8,800 students across the nation took the arts assessment in 2016.



Learn More and Stay in Touch

Visit www.nagb.gov to view materials for *The Nation's Report Card: 2016 Arts* and videos from school-based arts programs across the country.



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