

National Indian Education Study (NIES) 2011 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Alaska School Participation

What is NIES?

The National Indian Education Study (NIES) is the only nationwide study designed to describe the condition of education for Alaska Native and American Indian students. NIES provides information to help states, schools, and parents develop school programs that respond to the needs of Alaska Native and American Indian students, while respecting and honoring their distinct languages, cultures, and traditions. NIES consists of two parts: the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and an education survey. NIES is conducted every two years, and was most recently completed in 2009. NIES is sponsored by the Office of Indian Education (OIE) and conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for the U.S. Department of Education. The NIES Technical Review Panel, whose members included Alaska Native and American Indian educators and researchers from across the country, oversaw the development of the questionnaires.

What is NIES Part I?

NIES Part I includes the mathematics and reading portions of NAEP, the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in different school subject areas. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, and results from previous years can be found online at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

What is NIES Part II?

NIES Part II is an education survey. It is given to fourth- and eighth-grade students, teachers of the participating students at each grade level, and principals of the schools from which students are selected. Survey results provide an understanding about the ways that cultural influences can affect the education of Alaska Native students.

The student questionnaire consists of approximately 25 questions and will be conducted at each of the participating schools. Student questionnaires ask Alaska Native students about themselves, their families and communities, and their classrooms and schools.

Teacher and school questionnaires are slightly longer. Teacher questionnaires are completed by teachers of participating Alaska Native students to collect information about the instruction of these students in their classrooms and schools. School questionnaires are the same for both grade levels and are completed by principals or administrators at the schools of the participating students.

All questionnaires include multiple-choice questions and space at the end of the survey to write in additional comments. Respondents do not have to answer every question and are able to skip any question.

How do students participate in NIES? What should they expect?

Students will need to submit a signed parent permission form to participate in NIES. Their scores and responses are completely anonymous, and they do not need to study. Part I (NAEP) will take approximately 90 minutes to complete, while Part II (the student education survey) should only take 20 minutes to complete.

Why is participation in NIES important?

NIES 2011 needs your support to produce meaningful results. Every student's response makes a difference. When more students participate, NIES 2011 can create a more accurate picture of the academic performance and education experiences of Alaska Native students. Our goal is that the results of this study be used to help bring about improvements in education for current and future generations.

How can parents help?

NIES needs the support of parents to increase participation and produce meaningful results. Each student must have a signed parent permission form to participate. Completing and returning the form is vital to increase student participation. If parents have not received their form, they can contact the NIES Information Line at 1-888-747-4994 to request that one be forwarded to them.

When will NIES be administered at (insert school name)?

NIES will be administered at your student's school on (insert date).

When will the results from the study be available?

NIES 2011 results will be available in summer 2012. Results for both parts of NIES 2009 can be found on the NIES website: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies>

Where can I get more information?

For more information, you can call the NIES Information Line at 1-888-747-4994, or go online at:

NIES Website: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies>

NAEP Website: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

The Nation's Report Card Website: <http://nationsreportcard.gov>

Office of Indian Education (OIE): <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oie/index.html>