NAEP is a congressionally mandated assessment first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. Teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers all use NAEP results to assess progress and develop ways to improve education in the United States.

Mapping NAEP to State Results
A mapping study identifies the correlation between the percentage of students meeting the state standard, as reported by schools, and the percentage of students meeting standards as estimated by NAEP. Since the state assessment does not necessarily measure the same knowledge and skills, an amount of error is calculated and applied to the analysis. These results are not an evaluation of state assessment or of the quality of state achievement standards. Since NAEP is given in every state, it provides a common comparison metric.

Grade 4 Mathematics
Arkansas was one of 51 states/jurisdictions to compare with NAEP scale equivalents. Arkansas used the ACT Aspire assessment for the 2017 state end-of-year exam with the state standards mapping to NAEP Basic. This was a decrease from the 2015 results where the PARCC Benchmark percent Proficient in Arkansas aligned with NAEP Proficient.

Grade 4 Reading
50 states/jurisdictions were compared with NAEP scale equivalents. Arkansas used the ACT Aspire assessment for the 2017 state end-of-year exam with the Proficient score mapped to NAEP Basic. There was a consistent alignment from the 2015 results where the PARCC Benchmark percent Proficient in Arkansas mapped to NAEP Basic.

Grade 8 Mathematics
Only 32 states were compared with the NAEP scale equivalents. The ACT Aspire Proficient score aligned to NAEP Basic. Results for Arkansas were not available to compare in NAEP 2015 since Arkansas eighth-grade math students were required to take one of two general end-of-year assessments.

Grade 8 Reading
Using ACT Aspire for the 2017 end-of-year assessment, Arkansas was one of 48 states/jurisdictions to compare with NAEP scale equivalents. The ACT Aspire Proficient score aligned to NAEP Basic. There was a consistent alignment from the 2015 results where the PARCC Benchmark percent Proficient in Arkansas mapped to NAEP Basic.