

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

This government is determined to tackle the emerging challenges by imparting quality and modern education

embedded with Islamic values. NEAS is playing a vital role in identifying weak and gray areas in our education system across the country through its standardized assessment tools.



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and Professional Training

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## PARTICIPATION OF PAKISTAN IN TIMSS

Besides National Assessment, Pakistan is also participating for the first time in one of the international assessment studies namely 'Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study' (TIMSS) in 2019.

Participation of Pakistan in TIMSS is a policy action agenda of National Education Policy (2009). In 2016, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training decided participation of Pakistan in TIMSS at its own resources.



Mr. Muhammad Shakeel, Director NEAS (Left) giving briefing  
to Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir JEA, Ministry of Federal Education



Syed Zulfiqar Shah and Mr. Afian Ummar of NEAS  
(right to left) attending seminar on Data Management  
(Field Test) TIMSS in Hamburg Germany

## WHAT IS NEAS?

National Education Assessment System (NEAS) is working under the administrative control of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. Initially, NEAS was established as a priority programme under the Ministry of Education (Defunct) Sector Reform Action Plan. A specific priority within the overall plan is to build assessment capacity at school, district, province, areas and federal levels to measure students learning outcomes and improve the quality and effectiveness of programme interventions.

## NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM



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## NEAS Objectives

- ★ **Inform Policymakers:** regarding the extent to which geography and gender are linked to inequality in student performance.
- ★ **Monitor Standards:** to determine how well the curricula are translated into knowledge and skills.
- ★ **Identify Correlates of Achievement:** to investigate the principal determinants of student low achievement and how resource allocation might be re-directed.
- ★ **Direct Teachers' Efforts and Raise Students' Achievements:** by assisting teachers to use assessment data to improve student performance.

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Education is the most effective vaccine for the nations to vitalize its system against all esoteric and extraneous

challenges. NEAS is playing a diagnostic role. Recommendations of NEAS are eye opener and facilitative sign boards towards the path of nurturing quality education in Pakistan. We want to see NEAS's role more vibrant and dynamic to bring positive changes in our education system in order to compete the world prestigiously.



Mr. Arshad Mirza  
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education

## USE OF LARGE-SCALE ASSESSMENT IN THE EDUCATION POLICY CYCLE

Large scale assessments are often used in agenda-setting, to create awareness and prioritize an educational issue.

Education systems are groomed through assessments, translating into policies or deciding between different policy options and strategies.

Large-scale assessments are used for informed policy implementation measures.

Education systems use large-scale assessments to evaluate policies leading to development of system-level monitoring mechanisms.



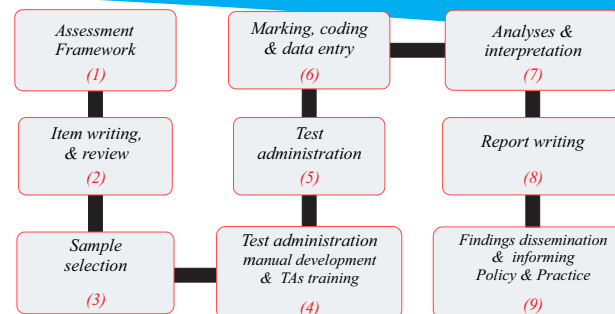
## ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

NEAS conducts periodic large-scale national assessment called 'National Achievement Test'. The assessment is conducted for Grade 4 and Grade 8 levels in the following six subjects:

1. Mathematics
2. Science
3. Social Studies
4. Urdu (Reading and Writing)
5. English (Reading & Writing)
6. Sindhi (Reading and Writing)

Random stratified sampling on PPS basis is used for conducting these assessments. These assessments are the only reliable source to get data on country-wide learning achievement.

### Processes and Implementation of National Assessment Activities Cycle in NEAS



## BENEFITS OF NEAS ASSESSMENTS

The nationwide sample-based assessment findings enable NEAS to provide fair and valid information regarding students' performance in a variety of academic areas. The collected data can help to compare the performance of students in schools of different districts and provinces/areas with the national average performance. Comparisons for performance over time, both at national and at the provincial/area levels, can be made for student subgroups, such as rural/urban, boys/girls and different types of schools.

**This valuable data is helpful for the policy makers in evidence-based decision making.**

## NEAS ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Development of assessment framework and test specifications
- ◆ Item writing and field test development
- ◆ Pilot testing
- ◆ Item review workshops
- ◆ Test development
- ◆ Sample selection and its verification from schools
- ◆ Management of assessment materials (printing, distribution, collection) and marking, coding and data entry



- ◆ Lead Master Trainers' training
- ◆ Test administrators' training
- ◆ Administration of achievement test and monitoring of assessment activities
- ◆ Analyses of data, its interpretation and report writing
- ◆ Dissemination of assessment findings

## INTENDED USE OF ASSESSMENTS IN EDUCATION POLICY

**Quality:** Large-scale assessments diagnose system strengths and weaknesses over time through system monitoring.

**Equity:** By examining disadvantaged groups such as girls; children in rural and remote areas; and, children from low socioeconomic background.

**Accountability:** The aim of improving educational quality and equity by reporting assessment outcomes to stakeholders.