

# News Release

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## Wisconsin results steady on NAEP math and reading

*Positive movement in reading*

MADISON — Wisconsin’s overall mathematics and reading results at grades four and eight remained stable for the 2015 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), while the nation’s scores dropped in mathematics and across both subjects at grade 8. State scores were statistically above the national average in both grades for mathematics and for eighth-grade reading.

In Wisconsin, about 9,600 public school students took paper and pencil exams in mathematics and reading between January and March of 2015 for NAEP, also known as “The Nation’s Report Card.” Nationwide, approximately 533,100 students took the exams.

Wisconsin’s fourth-graders had an average score of 243 in mathematics, compared to the national score of 240. For eighth grade mathematics, Wisconsin students had a scale score of 289, which was considered statistically higher than the national average score of 281.

The Nation's Report Card – 2015				
Public School NAEP	Mathematics		Reading	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
<b>Grade 4</b>	243*	240	223	221
<b>Grade 8</b>	289*	281	270*	264

\* Statistically higher (p<.05) from results nationally.

In reading, fourth-grade students had an average score of 223; not statistically different than the national average of 221. Eighth-graders had an average reading score of 270, which was considered higher than the average score of 264 for public school students nationally. There was a positive upward movement at both grade levels in reading. Grade-level scores for state students in both mathematics and reading were considered statistically the same as state scores on the 2013 NAEP. State mathematics results from 2015 were the the same as 2013 in eighth grade and down slightly in fourth grade, while both grades were higher than for 2003 NAEP mathematics results. (See Table)

“Scores from NAEP provide a look at how Wisconsin is doing over time and in comparison to other states,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “While we are making progress, gaps remain for too many students.”

(more)

Results by race and ethnicity showed Asian and Hispanic students making numeric gains in fourth-grade mathematics, and Asian students in eighth-grade mathematics. Hispanic and white students had score increases in fourth-grade reading, and black and white students had reading gains at eighth grade. For 2015, Wisconsin achievement gains, as well as gaps between students of color and their peers, were statistically unchanged from the 2013 administration of NAEP. Nationwide, Wisconsin’s achievement gap between black and white students was second from the bottom for math and reading at both grade levels.

“Closing and eliminating student achievement gaps between races requires the steady attention to building relationships and using teaching and school improvement strategies that work,” Evers said. “We must remain focused on efforts to improve achievement for all students so they graduate ready for college and careers.

Wisconsin’s overall results in mathematics were higher than 26 states at fourth grade, not statistically different than 19 states, and lower than six states. For eighth-grade mathematics, Wisconsin’s overall results were higher than 34 states, not statistically different than 13 states, and lower than four states. In reading, overall state results in fourth grade had Wisconsin students scoring higher than 16 states, not statistically different than 23 states, and lower than 12 states. For eighth-grade reading Wisconsin’s results were higher than 23 states, not statistically different than 23 states, and lower than five states. Overall rankings for Wisconsin results compared to other states were up at both grade levels and in both mathematics and reading. Several states experienced significant declines in NAEP results.

Wisconsin in the NAEP Rankings		
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>
Grade 4	19	17
Grade 8	14	7
<b>Reading</b>		
Grade 4	31	25
Grade 8	25	9

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**NOTE:** Results for Wisconsin are for a sample of public school students. No results are available for individual students, schools, or districts. Tables with additional results follow. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_106.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_106.pdf).

# 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Average Scale Scores for Public School Participants

	Mathematics				Reading			
	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Overall	243*	240	289*	281	223	221	270*	264
American Indian / Alaska Native	231	228	274	267	207	206	253	253
Asian	251	259	296	307*	222	240*	271	280
Black	212	224*	249	260*	193	206*	241	247*
Hispanic	229	230	271	269	209	208	255	253
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	‡	226	‡	277	‡	212	‡	254
White	250	248	296*	291	231	232	275	273
Two or more races	246	244	‡	283	‡	226	‡	267
Females	243*	239	289*	281	226	225	275*	269
Males	244*	241	289*	281	220	218	264*	259
Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)	229	229	269	268	207	209	253	253
Not Eligible for FRL	254	253	300*	296	236	237	278	276
Students with Disabilities	218	217	294*	286	188	186	231	229
Non-disabled	247*	243	294*	286	228	227	275*	269
English language learners (ELL)	225	218	256*	246	198*	189	234*	223
Non-ELL	245	243	290*	284	225	225	271*	267

‡ Sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

\* Statistically higher ( $p < .05$ ) within the same reporting group when comparing Wisconsin and national public students for same grade and year. No (\*) between groups means the scores are not statistically different.

# National Assessment of Educational Progress

## Average Scale Scores for Public School Participants

Mathematics		Grade 4		Grade 8		Reading		Grade 4		Grade 8	
		State	Nation	State	Nation			State	Nation	State	Nation
Overall	2003	237*	234*	284*	276*	Overall	2003	221	216*	266	261*
	2013	245	241*	289	284*		2013	221	221	268	266*
	2015	243	240	289	281		2015	223	221	270	264
Black	2003	209	216*	241	252*	Black	2003	200	197*	234	244*
	2013	216	224	252	263*		2013	193	205	237	250*
	2015	212	224	249	260		2015	193	206	241	247
American Indian	2003	224	224*	‡	265	American Indian	2003	211	202*	‡	248
	2013	231	228	‡	270		2013	211	206	‡	252
	2015	231	228	274	267		2015	207	206	253	253
Asian	2003	-	-	-	-	Asian	2003	-	-	-	-
	2013	247	260	290	308		2013	223	237	272	280
	2015	251	259	296	307		2015	222	240	271	280
Hispanic	2003	221	221*	262	258*	Hispanic	2003	209	199*	244	244*
	2013	228	230	273	271		2013	201	207	258	255*
	2015	229	230	271	269		2015	209	208	255	253
White	2003	243*	243*	290*	287*	White	2003	225*	227*	271	270*
	2013	252	250*	296	293*		2013	228	231	273	275*
	2015	250	248	296	291		2015	231	232	275	273

Declines in 2015 compared to 2013 (Statistically significant.)

‡ Sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

- New reporting category in 2010-11.

\* Value is significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from value for same jurisdiction (either state or national public) in 2015.