

News Release

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2017 NAEP results flat

MADISON – Reading and mathematics results for the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation’s Report Card, are flat in Wisconsin compared to prior years with fourth-graders overall at the national average and eighth-graders just above the national average for both subjects.

Average scale scores for 2017 fourth-grade reading in Wisconsin were 220, a decline that is statistically significant when compared to the 2015 average score of 223. The state’s 2017 reading results for fourth grade are statistically the same as the national average scale score of 221. For eighth-grade reading, state students had an average score of 269, which is above the national average of 265.

Public School NAEP	Reading		Mathematics	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	220	221	240	239
Grade 8	269*	265	288*	282

* Statistically higher (p<.05).

In mathematics, the average scale score in fourth grade was 240 for Wisconsin compared to 239 nationally. At eighth grade the average mathematics scale score was 288, which is above the national average of 282. Gaps in achievement are apparent across racial and ethnic groups and for students from low-income families, students with disabilities, and students learning English and their peers.

“Wisconsin’s NAEP results, and those of the past decade plus, show how desperate the need is for us to work together to close opportunity gaps for our kids,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “As our population continues to diversify, we cannot afford to leave large numbers of our students behind their peers and expect the Wisconsin economy to continue without disruption.”

Administered last spring to approximately 3,300 fourth-grade students and 3,100 eighth-grade students in Wisconsin public schools, NAEP is largest nationally representative and continuing assessment

(more)

of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Nationally, about 143,400 students were tested in grade four reading and 137,200 in grade 8. The national sample was approximately 144,000 for fourth-grade mathematics and 140,200 for eighth grade. This was the first year NAEP fully transitioned to digitally based assessments. The NAEP reading and mathematics scales range from zero to 500.

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NOTES: A table with state and national results for the 2017 NAEP mathematics and readings assessments is attached. This news release is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2018-36.pdf>.

2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Average Scale Scores for Public School Participants

	Reading				Mathematics			
	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Overall	220	221	269*	265	240	239	288*	282
American Indian / Alaska Native	‡	203	‡	253	‡	228	‡	268
Asian	219	241*	273	283*	242	260*	286	312*
Black	194	205*	239	248*	211	223*	253	260*
Hispanic	201	208*	255	255	225	229	267	268
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	‡	210	‡	254	‡	228	‡	272
White	226	231*	275	274	247	248	296*	292
Two or more races	223	226	‡	270	240	244	279	285
Females	223	224	277*	270	239	238	287*	282
Males	217	218	262	260	242	240	289*	282
Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)	203	208*	254	253	225	228*	268	267
Not Eligible for FRL	231	236*	277	277	251	253	300*	297
Students with Disabilities	178	186*	231	231	214	214	251	246
Students without Disabilities	226	226	275*	270	245	243	293*	287
English learners (EL)	191	189	233	226	219	217	250	245
Non-EL	222	225*	271*	268	242	242	290*	284

‡ 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.