

News Release

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Wisconsin's 2019 NAEP scores steady

Nation saw significant declines; achievement gaps persist for Wisconsin

MADISON – Wisconsin's results on the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card, remained statistically unchanged for public school students in tested subjects and grade levels, in a year when the nation saw significant declines on three out of four measures. Students last took the NAEP exam in 2017. Wisconsin's current results mirror long-term trends; differences between today's results and those from ten years ago in 2009 are not statistically significant.

"We have work ahead to achieve our rigorous expectations," State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford Taylor said. "Our persistent achievement gaps are a crisis. Closing these gaps is not only the right thing to do, it is imperative for our state."

In both reading and mathematics, Wisconsin eighth graders outpaced nearly 40 other states, with only two jurisdictions scoring higher (around a dozen were statistically similar). A total of 51 jurisdictions were included in the results – 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Fourth-grade scores statistically equaled the national average. Additionally, the state's English learners performed higher in reading than English learners nationally at both grade levels.

	Reading		Mathematics	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
Grade 4	220	219 ↓	242	240 ↑
Grade 8	267*	262 ↓	289*	281 ↓

* Statistically significant difference from national average.
 ↓↑ Statistically significant change over 2017.

However, Wisconsin's scores reflected a wider gap between the performance of black and white students than any other state or jurisdiction except one, the District of Columbia. NAEP results for Wisconsin, as well as nationwide, show declining scores among the lowest performing students.

This year, results for NAEP's Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) were released at the same time as state results. Milwaukee Public Schools is among 27 large urban districts that participate in TUDA.

(more)

Participants receive district-level results. Results for Milwaukee show trends similar to the nation, with decreases in reading at both grade levels. Mathematics results for the district remained steady compared to 2017. The district has participated since 2009.

NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. NAEP 2019 was administered last spring to over 3300 Wisconsin public school students in each subject and grade level. The number of students taking the assessment nationally was between approximately 138,100 and 144,700, depending on subject and grade level. This is the second year results are being reported for NAEP digitally based assessments on tablets. The NAEP reading and mathematics scales range from zero to 500. NAEP has been administered since 1969 and has produced state-level results since the early 1990s.

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NOTES: A table showing results overall and by subgroup follows. More information about the assessment can be found on the Nation's Report Card site: <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. This news release is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2019/wisconsins-2019-naep-scores-steady>.

2019 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	219↓	267*	262↓	242	240↑	289*	281↓
American Indian/Alaska Native	198	204	253	249	230	228	267	263
Asian	223	239*	277	284	241	263*	294	313*
Black	188	203*↓	235	244*↓	212	224*	250	259*
Hispanic	208	208	251	251↓	228	231	273*	268
White	227	229*↓	274*	271↓	249	249	297*	291
Two or more races	219	225	268	266↓	236	243	276	285
Females	224	223	275*	268↓	240	238	289*	282
Males	216	216↓	260*	256↓	243	242↑	288*	280↓
Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL)	204	207*↓	252*	249↓	226	229*↑	269*	266
Not Eligible for FRL	233	235↓	278*	275↓	254	253	301*	296
Students with Disabilities	177	184↓	225	228↓	208	214*	248	247
Students without Disabilities	226	225↓	273*	267↓	247*	244↑	294*	286
English Learners (EL)	197*	191↑	230*	221↓	218	219↑	248	243
Non-EL	222	224↓	269*	265↓	244	243↑	291*	284

↓ Statistically significant decrease compared to 2017

↑ Statistically significant increase compared to 2017

* Significantly higher ($p < .05$) within the same reporting group when comparing the scores for Wisconsin and the National Public in the same grade/subject/year.

No (*) between groups means the scores are not statistically different.