

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-3A Fourth Grade Science Performance, White Students

Description

This indicator represents the average score in science of each state's fourth grade public school students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP science assessment is a congressionally authorized measure of student performance that is conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics. It measures students' knowledge and skill in science and their ability to apply that knowledge in the content areas of physical, life, and earth and space science. The NAEP assessment in science was updated in 2009 to keep pace with key developments in science. Because it is based on a new framework, 2009 results cannot be compared to those from previous science assessments. Student performance is presented in terms of average scores on a scale from 0 to 300.

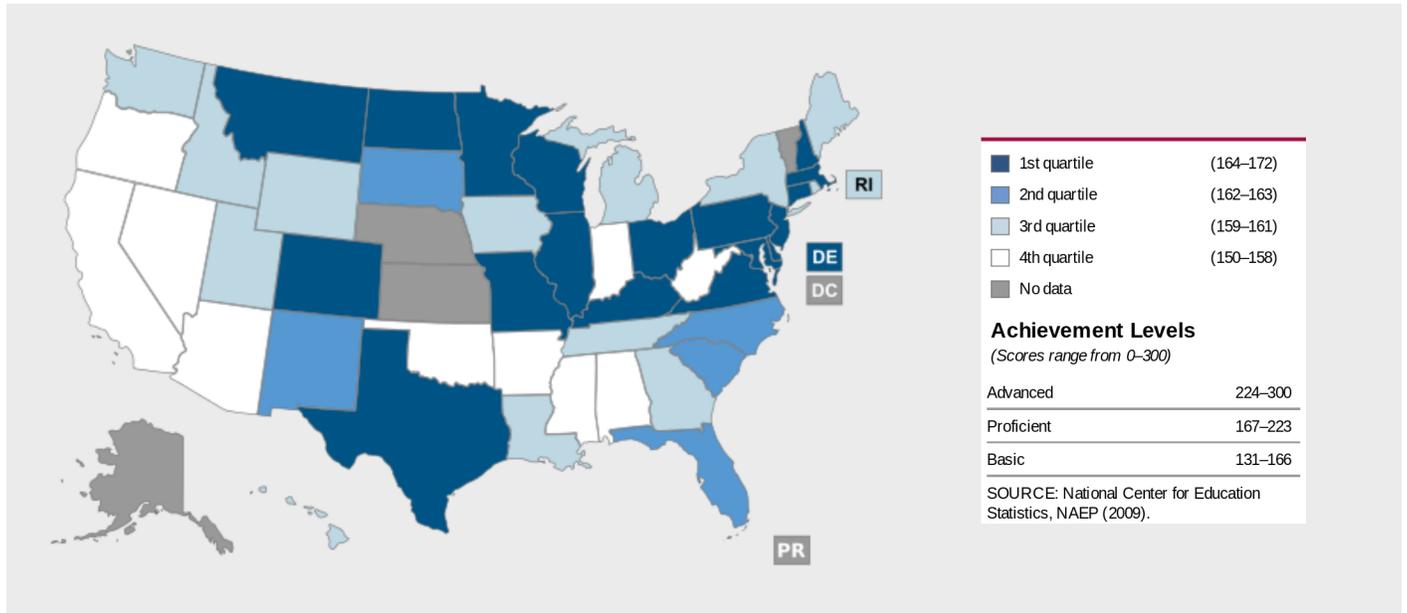
Approximately 151,500 fourth grade students, of whom 82,000 were white, participated in the 2009 NAEP science assessment. Students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency are allowed to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). All data presented here represent scores from tests taken with accommodations offered. Demographic percentages of test takers by state are included in this indicator's standard error table. For national data across all demographic groups, see indicator 8-3.

Findings

- Percentages of white test takers varied on a state level from 14% to 94%. Nationally, in 2009, 54% of fourth grade science test takers were white students.
- In 2009, the nationwide average science score of white fourth grade students was 162 compared to the nationwide average of 149. Average scores for individual states range between 150 and 172.
- Of the 46 states that participated in the 2009 fourth grade science assessment and that had enough data for statistical comparisons, 14 statewide average scores were higher than the national average, 15 scores were clustered around the average, and 17 scores were lower.
- The nationwide average score of white students on the earth science section of the science exam was 163, the average score on the life science section was 161, and the average score on the physical science section was 162.

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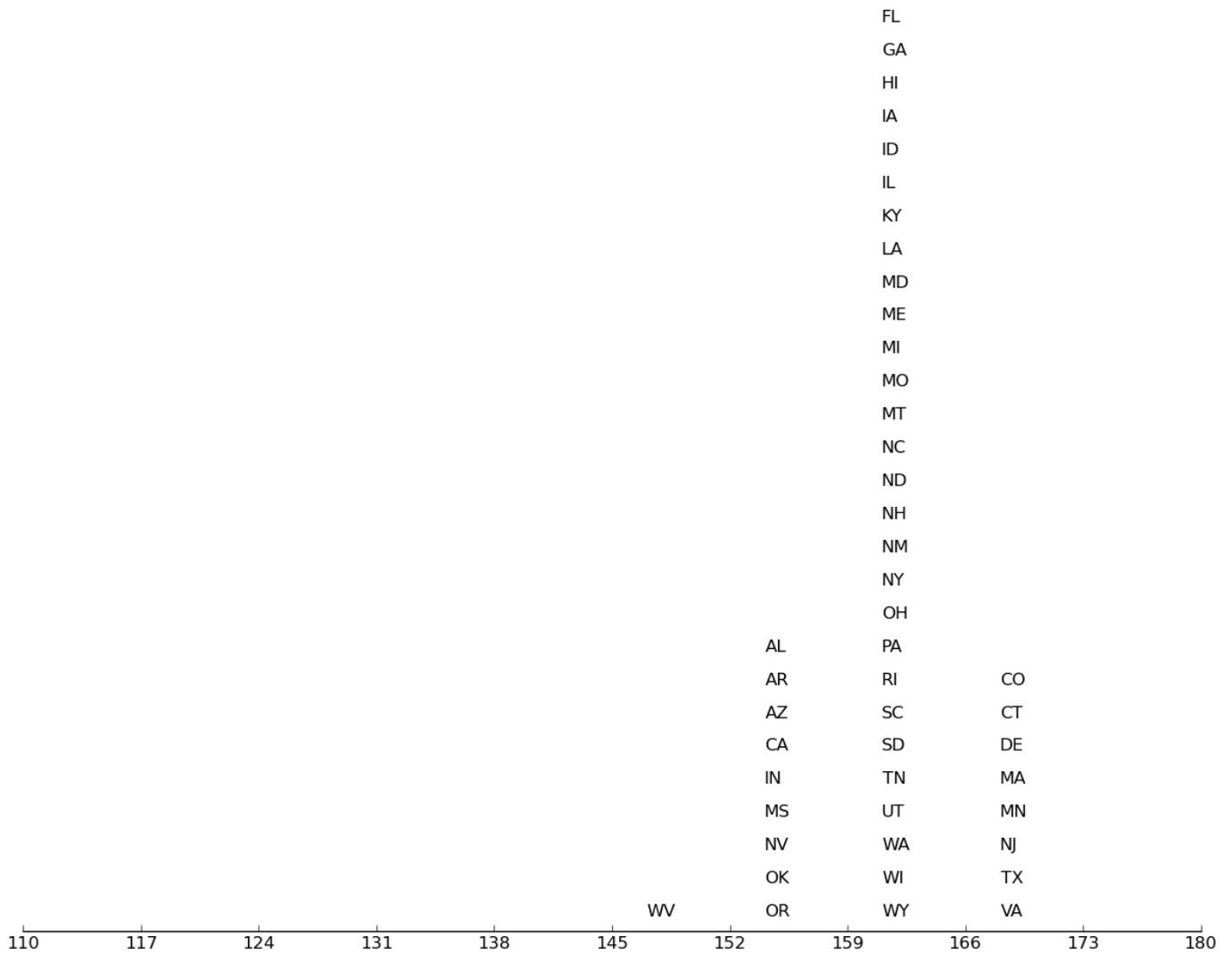
Year: 2009



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Distribution of states across indicator values



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Table 8-3A Fourth Grade Science Performance, White Students

State	4th grade science performance, white students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	
United States		162
Alabama		155
Alaska		NA
Arizona		155
Arkansas		157
California		157
Colorado		166
Connecticut		167
Delaware		166
District of Columbia		NA
Florida		163
Georgia		159
Hawaii		159
Idaho		159
Illinois		164
Indiana		158
Iowa		161
Kansas		NA
Kentucky		164
Louisiana		159
Maine		161
Maryland		164
Massachusetts		169
Michigan		160
Minnesota		166

State	4th grade science performance, white students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	
Mississippi		152
Missouri		164
Montana		164
Nebraska		NA
Nevada		156
New Hampshire		165
New Jersey		166
New Mexico		163
New York		161
North Carolina		162
North Dakota		165
Ohio		165
Oklahoma		156
Oregon		157
Pennsylvania		164
Rhode Island		161
South Carolina		163
South Dakota		162
Tennessee		159
Texas		168
Utah		161
Vermont		NA
Virginia		172
Washington		160
West Virginia		150
Wisconsin		164
Wyoming		159
Puerto Rico		NA



4th grade science performance, white students
(Score out of 300)

State

2009

NA = not available.

NOTES: The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores are for public schools only. The national value for the United States is the reported value in the NAEP reports.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, NAEP (2009).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016