

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-3B Fourth Grade Science Performance, Black 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.

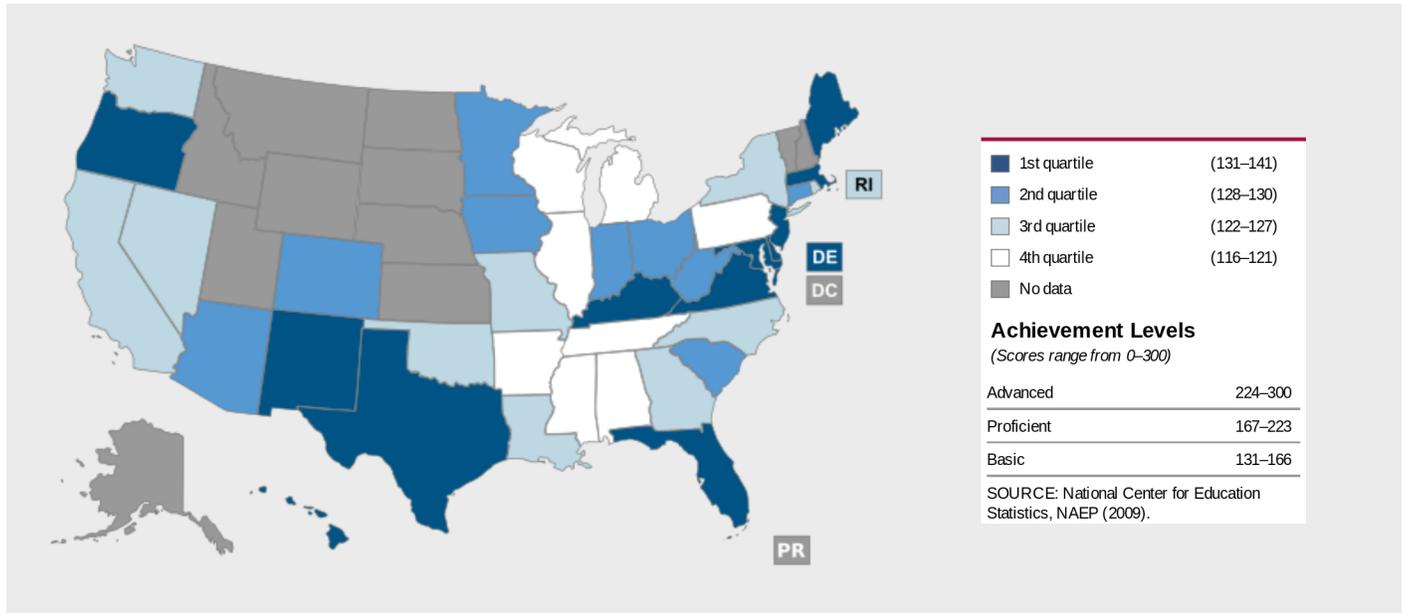
Approximately 151,500 fourth grade students, of whom 24,000 were black, participated in the 2009 NAEP science assessment. Students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency are allowed to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). 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 black test takers varied on a state level from 1% to 52%. Nationally, in 2009, 16% of fourth grade science test takers were black students.
- In 2009, the nationwide average science score of black fourth grade students was 127 compared to the nationwide average of 149. Average scores for individual states range between 116 and 141.
- Of the 39 states that participated in the 2009 fourth grade science assessment and that had enough data for statistical comparisons, 9 statewide average scores were higher than the national average, 20 scores were clustered around the average, and 10 scores were lower.
- The nationwide average score of black students on the earth science section of the science exam was 125, the average score on the life science section was 129, and the average score on the physical science section was 129.

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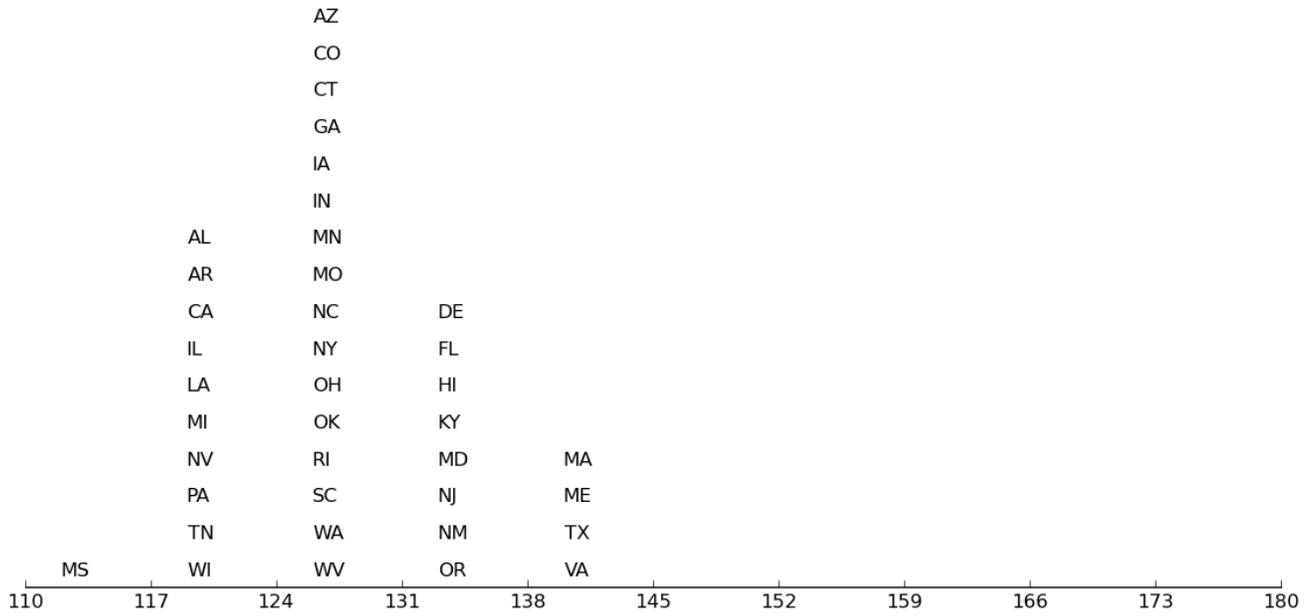
Year: 2009



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Distribution of states across indicator values



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Table 8-3B Fourth Grade Science Performance, Black Students

State	4th grade science performance, black students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	
United States		127
Alabama		121
Alaska		NA
Arizona		129
Arkansas		117
California		122
Colorado		128
Connecticut		129
Delaware		135
District of Columbia		NA
Florida		131
Georgia		126
Hawaii		134
Idaho		S
Illinois		120
Indiana		129
Iowa		130
Kansas		NA
Kentucky		135
Louisiana		123
Maine		139
Maryland		131
Massachusetts		138
Michigan		118
Minnesota		129

State	4th grade science performance, black students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	
Mississippi		116
Missouri		127
Montana		S
Nebraska		NA
Nevada		122
New Hampshire		S
New Jersey		133
New Mexico		134
New York		127
North Carolina		126
North Dakota		S
Ohio		129
Oklahoma		125
Oregon		131
Pennsylvania		121
Rhode Island		126
South Carolina		128
South Dakota		S
Tennessee		121
Texas		139
Utah		S
Vermont		NA
Virginia		141
Washington		127
West Virginia		130
Wisconsin		121
Wyoming		S
Puerto Rico		NA



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

State

2009

NA = not available; S = data are suppressed because reporting standards were not met.

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. Black includes African American.

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

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016