

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-4C Fourth Grade Science Proficiency, Hispanic Students

Description

This indicator represents the proportion of a state's fourth grade students in public schools that met or exceeded the proficiency standard in science. The National Assessment Governing Board sets performance standards that provide a context for interpreting National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results. The standards define "proficiency," as well as "advanced" and "basic" accomplishment. For the fourth grade, the basic level (scores 131–166) denotes partial mastery of knowledge and skills that are prerequisite for proficient work. The proficient level (167–223) represents solid academic performance and demonstrates competency over challenging subject-matter knowledge. The advanced level (224–300) signifies superior performance.

The National Center for Education Statistics has determined that achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted with caution. However, both the Commissioner of Education Statistics and the National Assessment Governing Board state these performance standards are useful for understanding trends in student achievement.

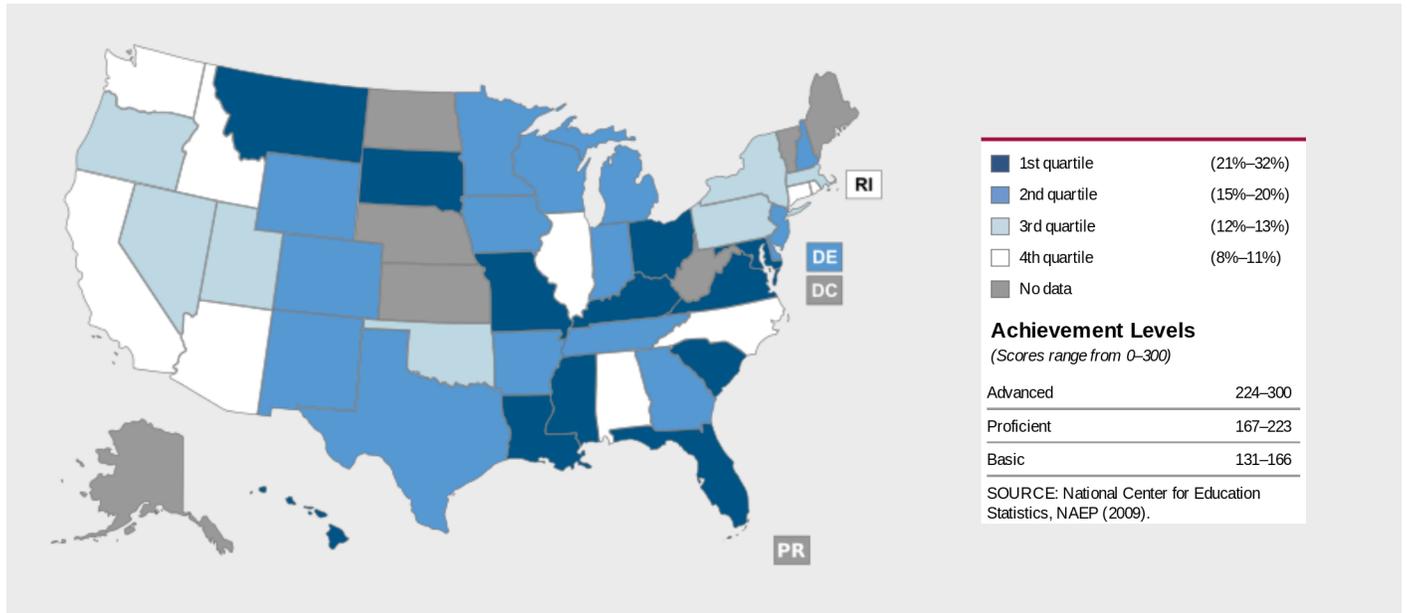
Approximately 151,500 fourth grade students, of whom 33,000 were Hispanic, participated in the 2009 NAEP science assessment. Students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency are allowed to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). 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 8-4.

Findings

- Percentages of Hispanic test takers varied from 1% to 58% at the state level. Nationally, in 2013, 22% of fourth grade science test takers were Hispanic students.
- In 2009, 13% of fourth grade Hispanic students nationwide performed at or above the proficient level in science compared to 32% of fourth grade students nationwide.
- Proficiency varied significantly across states, ranging from 8% to 32%.
- Of the 43 states that participated in the 2009 fourth grade science assessment and that had enough data for statistical comparisons, 10 had a percentage of fourth grade Hispanic students who demonstrated proficiency in science that was higher than the national average for fourth grade Hispanic students, 28 states had a percentage similar to the national average, and 5 states had a percentage that was lower than the national average.

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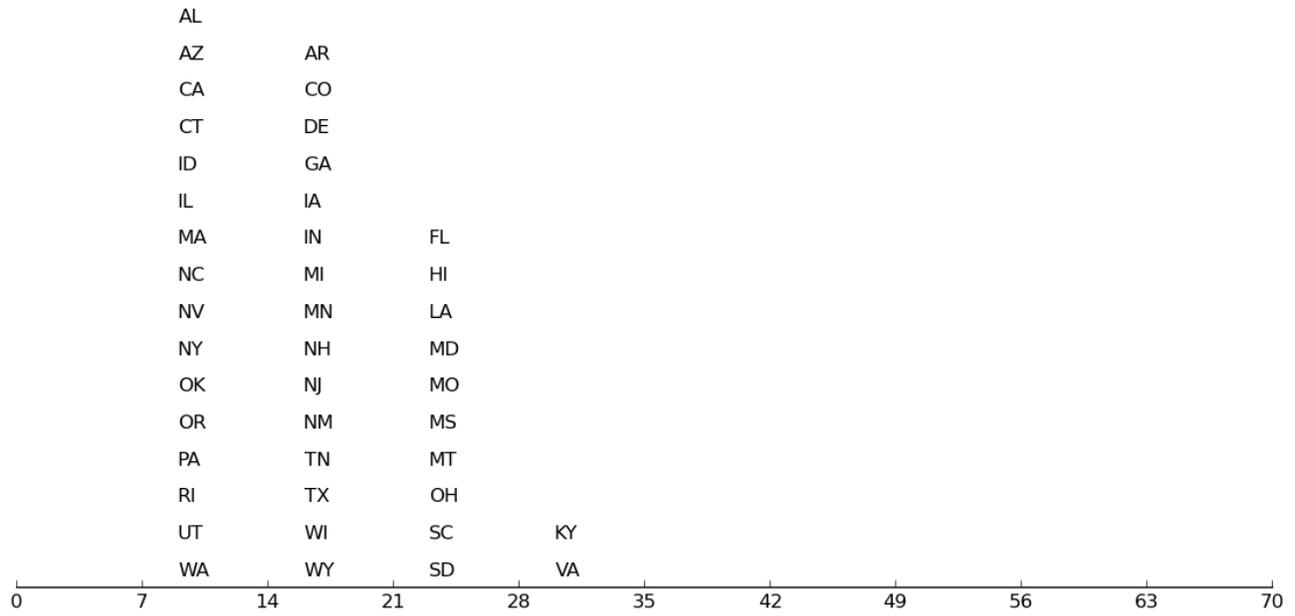
Year: 2009



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Distribution of states across indicator values



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Table 8-4C Fourth Grade Science Proficiency, Hispanic Students

State	4th grade science proficiency, Hispanic students (Percent)	
	2009	
United States		13
Alabama		9
Alaska		NA
Arizona		9
Arkansas		15
California		8
Colorado		15
Connecticut		11
Delaware		20
District of Columbia		NA
Florida		23
Georgia		15
Hawaii		22
Idaho		10
Illinois		10
Indiana		15
Iowa		15
Kansas		NA
Kentucky		31
Louisiana		23
Maine		5
Maryland		21
Massachusetts		12
Michigan		20
Minnesota		16

4th grade science proficiency, Hispanic students (Percent)	
State	2009
Mississippi	21
Missouri	21
Montana	26
Nebraska	NA
Nevada	12
New Hampshire	20
New Jersey	15
New Mexico	15
New York	13
North Carolina	11
North Dakota	S
Ohio	26
Oklahoma	12
Oregon	12
Pennsylvania	12
Rhode Island	9
South Carolina	23
South Dakota	23
Tennessee	17
Texas	16
Utah	12
Vermont	NA
Virginia	32
Washington	10
West Virginia	S
Wisconsin	17
Wyoming	18
Puerto Rico	NA



4th grade science proficiency, Hispanic students (Percent)

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. Hispanic includes Latino.

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

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016