

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-4D Fourth Grade Science Proficiency, Asian and Pacific Islander 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.

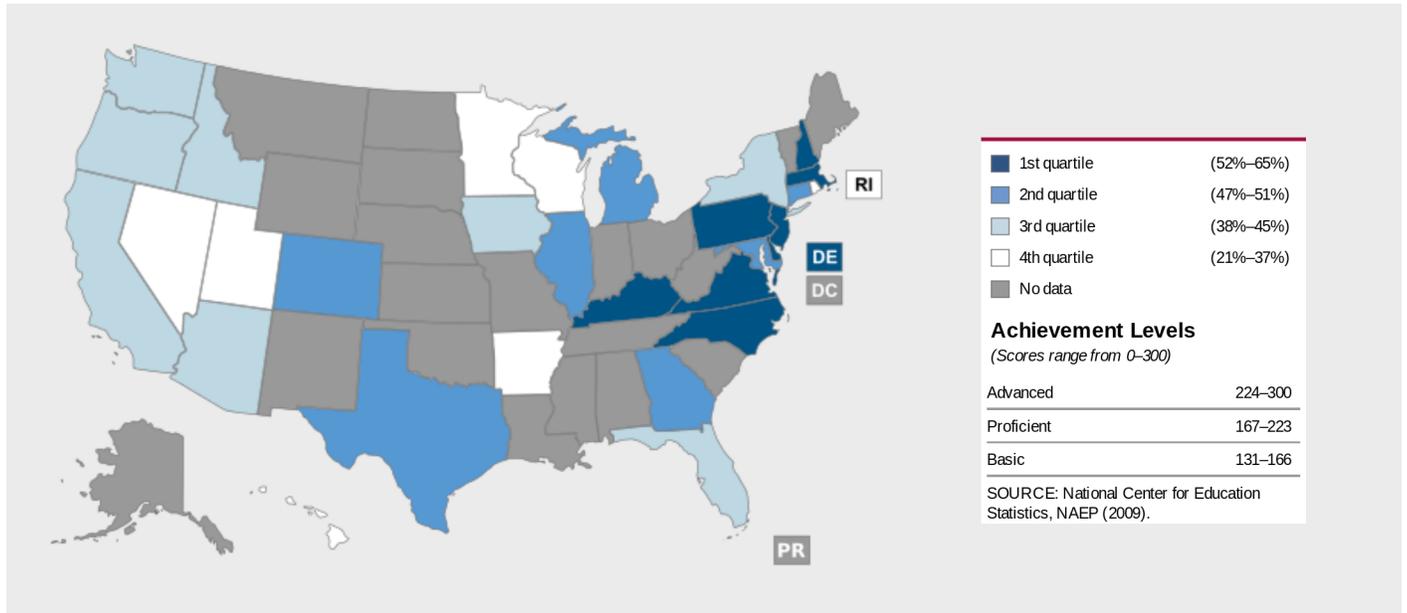
Approximately 151,500 fourth grade students, of whom 7,500 were Asian and Pacific Islander, participated in the 2009 NAEP science assessment. Students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency are allowed to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than 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 Asian and Pacific Islander test takers varied from 1% to 65% at the state level. Nationally, in 2013, 5% of fourth grade science test takers were Asian and Pacific Islander students.
- In 2009, 45% of fourth grade Asian and Pacific Islander 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 21% to 65%.
- Of the 30 states that participated in the 2009 fourth grade science assessment and that had enough data for statistical comparisons, 3 had a percentage of fourth grade Asian and Pacific Islander students who demonstrated proficiency in science that was higher than the national average for fourth grade Asian and Pacific Islander students, 22 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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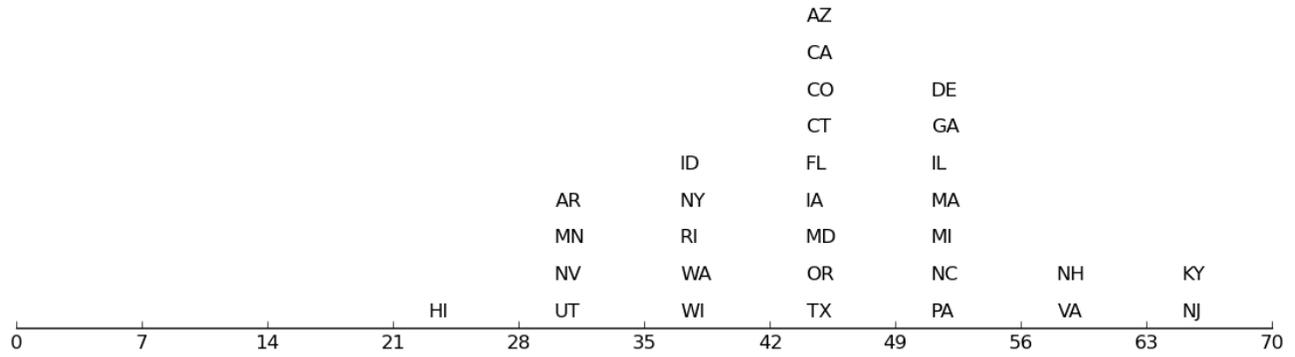
Year: 2009



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Distribution of states across indicator values



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Table 8-4D Fourth Grade Science Proficiency, Asian and Pacific Islander Students

State	4th grade science proficiency, Asian and Pacific Islander students (Percent)	
	2009	
United States		45
Alabama		S
Alaska		NA
Arizona		43
Arkansas		34
California		45
Colorado		48
Connecticut		48
Delaware		53
District of Columbia		NA
Florida		44
Georgia		50
Hawaii		21
Idaho		39
Illinois		51
Indiana		S
Iowa		43
Kansas		NA
Kentucky		65
Louisiana		S
Maine		S
Maryland		47
Massachusetts		53
Michigan		49
Minnesota		31

State	4th grade science proficiency, Asian and Pacific Islander students (Percent)	
	2009	
Mississippi		S
Missouri		S
Montana		S
Nebraska		NA
Nevada		32
New Hampshire		57
New Jersey		63
New Mexico		S
New York		38
North Carolina		52
North Dakota		S
Ohio		S
Oklahoma		S
Oregon		44
Pennsylvania		53
Rhode Island		37
South Carolina		S
South Dakota		S
Tennessee		S
Texas		47
Utah		28
Vermont		NA
Virginia		61
Washington		41
West Virginia		S
Wisconsin		37
Wyoming		S
Puerto Rico		NA



4th grade science proficiency, Asian and Pacific Islander 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. Asian and Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian.

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

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016