Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-7A Eighth Grade Science Performance, White Students

Description

This indicator represents the average score in science of each state's eighth 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 119,600 eighth grade students, of whom 64,500 were white, participated in the 2011 NAEP science assessment. NAEP allows students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency 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 8-7.

Findings

- Percentages of white test takers in 2011 varied on a state level from 13% to 93%. Nationally, in 2011, 54% of eighth grade science test takers were white students compared with 56% in 2009.
- In 2011, the nationwide average science score of white eighth grade students was 163, an increase from 161 in 2009. In 2011, the nationwide average science score of eighth grade students was 151.
- Average scores in 2011 for individual states ranged from a high of 171 to a low of 150.
- None of the statewide averages were lower in 2011 than in 2009. Nineteen statewide averages were higher in 2011 than in 2009, and 27 statewide average scores were virtually the same in 2011 as in 2009.
- The 2011 nationwide average score of white students on the earth science section of the science exam was 162, the average score on the life science was 163, and the average score on the physical science section was 163.

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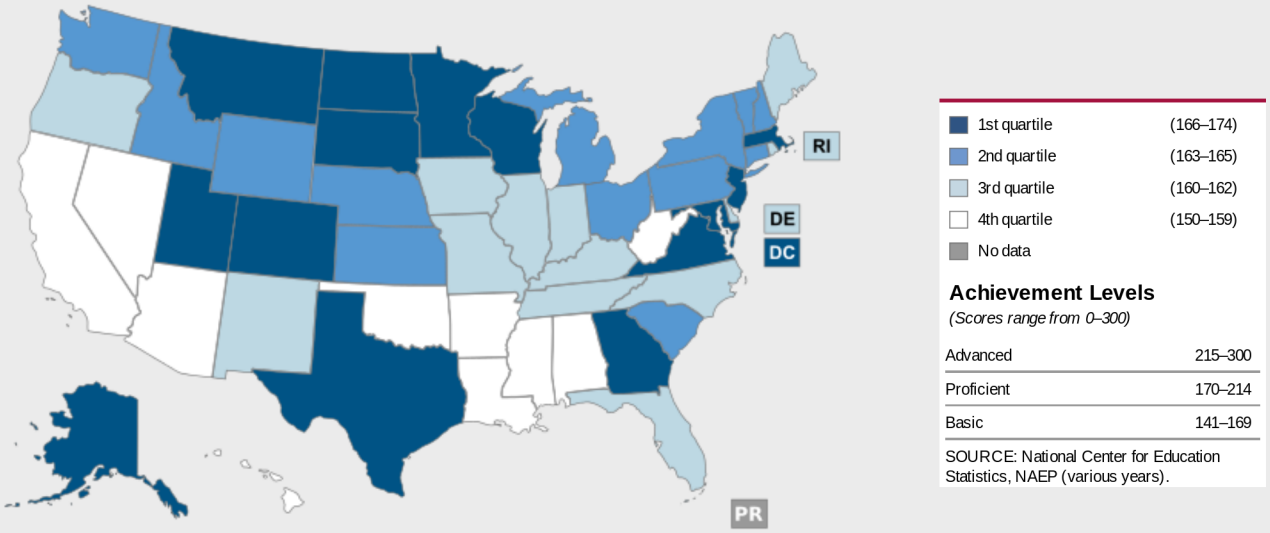
Year: 2011



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Year: 2011

Distribution of states across indicator values

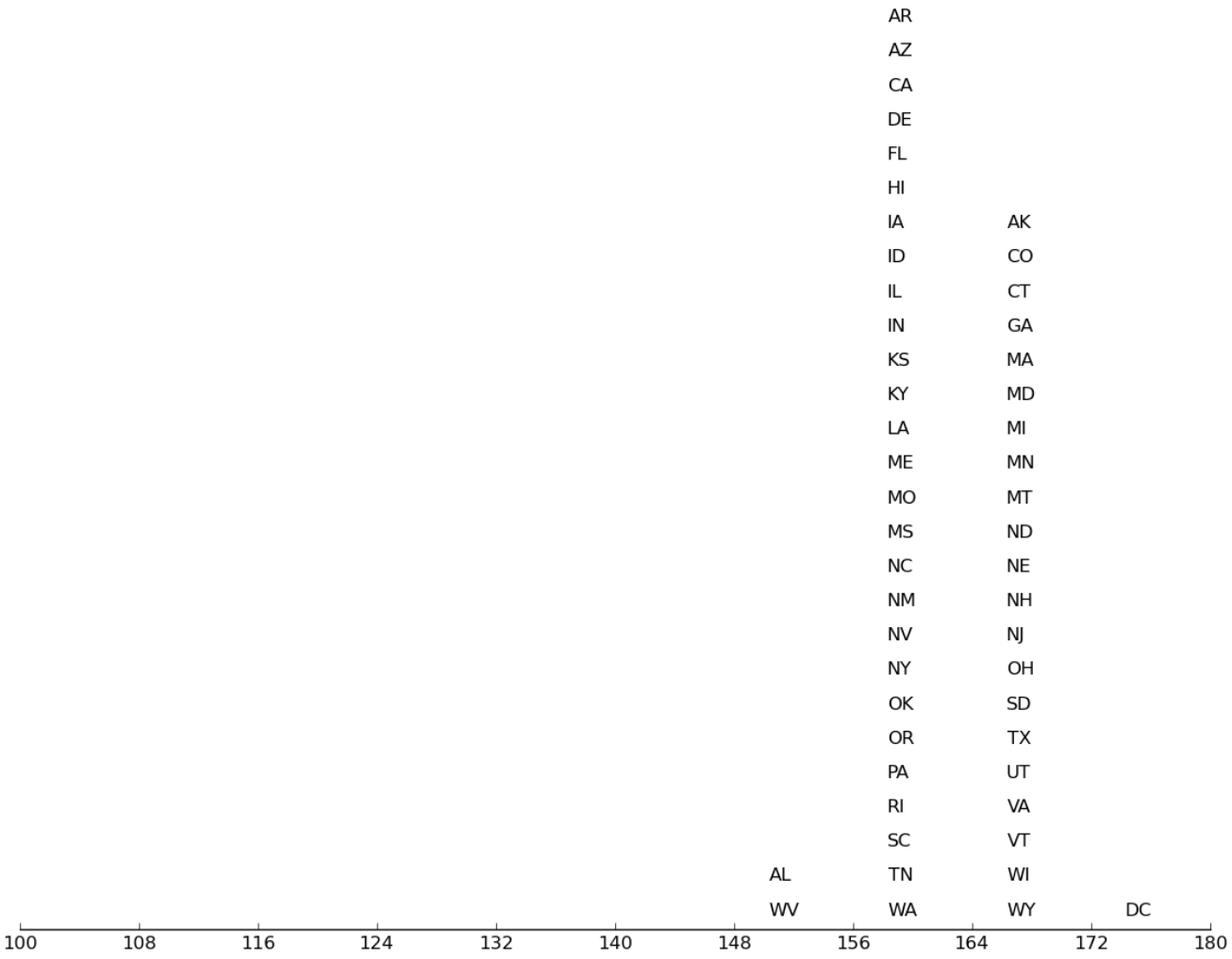

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Table 8-7A Eighth Grade Science Performance, White Students

State	8th grade science performance, white students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	2011
United States	161	163
Alabama	152	152
Alaska	NA	166
Arizona	157	158
Arkansas	154	158
California	157	159
Colorado	166	171
Connecticut	164	165
Delaware	159	161
District of Columbia	NA	174
Florida	158	161
Georgia	161	166
Hawaii	153	157
Idaho	162	163
Illinois	162	161
Indiana	159	160
Iowa	160	161
Kansas	NA	163
Kentucky	159	160
Louisiana	155	156
Maine	159	160
Maryland	164	167
Massachusetts	167	169
Michigan	162	165
Minnesota	166	168

State	8th grade science performance, white students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	2011
Mississippi	150	156
Missouri	161	162
Montana	166	167
Nebraska	NA	164
Nevada	153	157
New Hampshire	161	164
New Jersey	165	166
New Mexico	163	161
New York	164	163
North Carolina	158	160
North Dakota	166	168
Ohio	164	165
Oklahoma	155	156
Oregon	160	162
Pennsylvania	162	163
Rhode Island	155	161
South Carolina	158	163
South Dakota	165	166
Tennessee	157	160
Texas	167	167
Utah	164	167
Vermont	NA	164
Virginia	166	169
Washington	161	163
West Virginia	146	150
Wisconsin	165	166
Wyoming	162	164
Puerto Rico	NA	NA

	8th grade science performance, white students (Score out of 300)	
State	2009	2011

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 (various years).

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016