

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-8B Eighth Grade Science Proficiency, Black Students

Description

This indicator represents the proportion of a state's eighth 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 eighth grade, the basic level (scores 141–169) denotes partial mastery of knowledge and skills that are prerequisite for proficient work. The proficient level (170–214) represents solid academic performance and demonstrates competency over challenging subject-matter knowledge. The advanced level (215–300) 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.

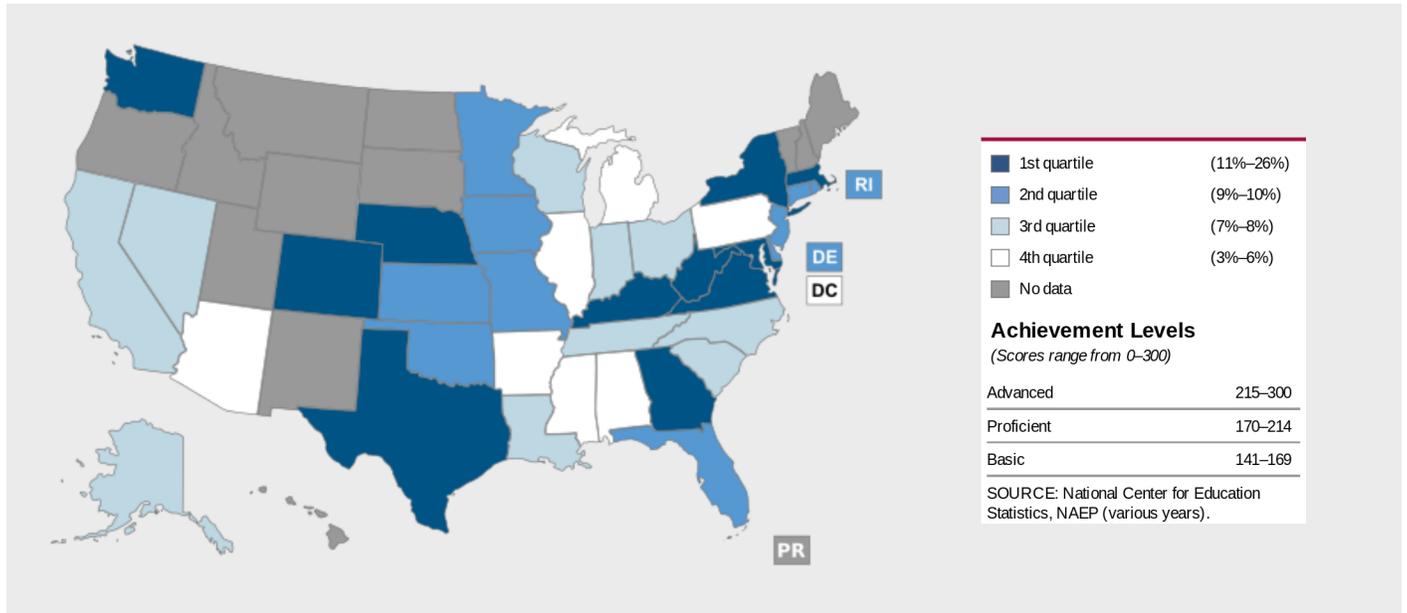
Approximately 119,600 eighth grade students, of whom 19,000 were black, participated in the 2011 NAEP science assessment. NAEP allows students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). 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 8-8.

Findings

- Percentages of black test takers in 2011 varied on a state level from 1% to 49%. Nationally, in 2011 and 2009, 16% of eighth grade science test takers were black students.
- In 2011, 9% of eighth grade black students nationwide performed at or above the proficient level in science, an increase from 8% in 2009. In 2011, 31% of eighth grade students nationwide performed at or above the proficient level in science.
- Among the states, there were significant differences in the percentage of eighth grade black students who demonstrated proficiency in science. State values ranged from 3% to 26%.
- The percentage of eighth grade black students performing at or above the proficient level in most states (32) was virtually the same in 2011 and 2009, except in Colorado, Mississippi, and New York, where the percentage increased between 2009 and 2011.

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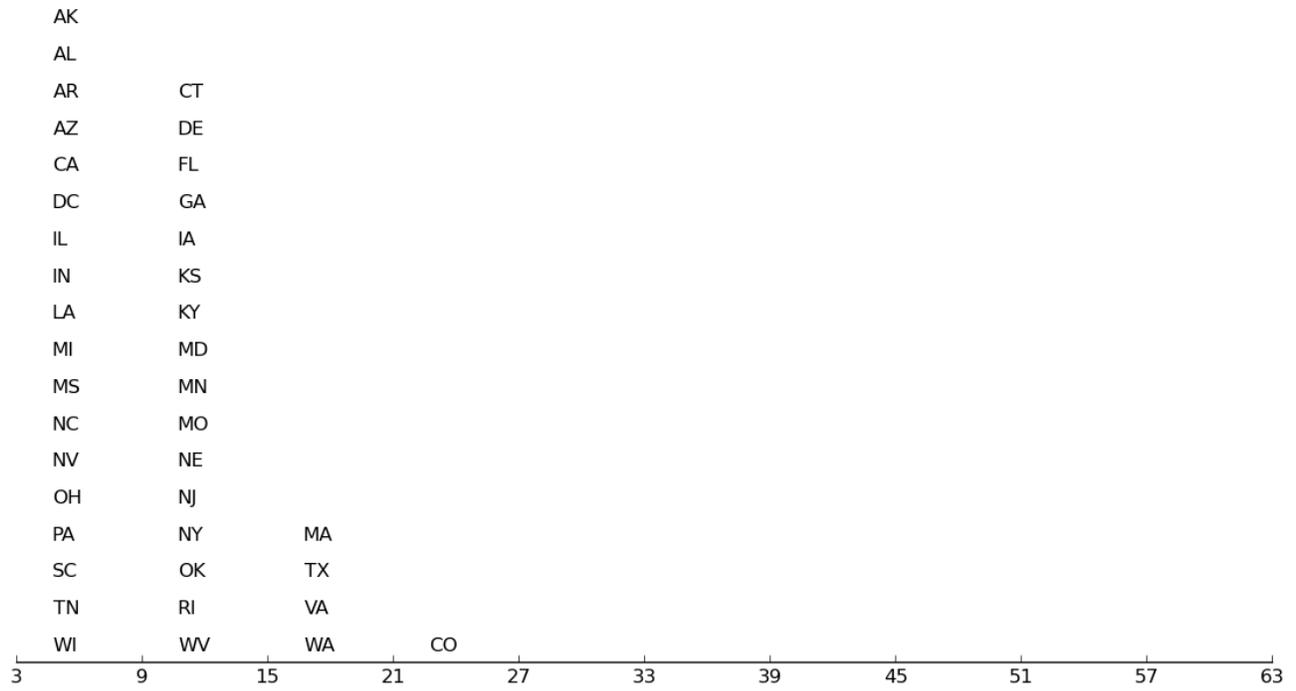
Year: 2011



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Distribution of states across indicator values



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Table 8-8B Eighth Grade Science Proficiency, Black Students

State	8th grade science proficiency, black students (Percent)	
	2009	2011
United States	8	9
Alabama	4	5
Alaska	NA	8
Arizona	8	6
Arkansas	4	3
California	8	8
Colorado	13	26
Connecticut	9	9
Delaware	10	10
District of Columbia	NA	4
Florida	7	9
Georgia	10	12
Hawaii	15	S
Idaho	S	S
Illinois	4	4
Indiana	8	8
Iowa	9	10
Kansas	NA	9
Kentucky	16	12
Louisiana	5	8
Maine	11	S
Maryland	8	11
Massachusetts	13	15
Michigan	6	6
Minnesota	11	10

State	8th grade science proficiency, black students (Percent)	
	2009	2011
Mississippi	3	5
Missouri	9	10
Montana	S	S
Nebraska	NA	11
Nevada	9	7
New Hampshire	S	S
New Jersey	8	9
New Mexico	S	S
New York	7	11
North Carolina	5	7
North Dakota	S	S
Ohio	6	8
Oklahoma	7	9
Oregon	13	S
Pennsylvania	7	5
Rhode Island	8	10
South Carolina	6	8
South Dakota	24	S
Tennessee	6	7
Texas	13	16
Utah	S	S
Vermont	NA	S
Virginia	11	15
Washington	16	15
West Virginia	10	11
Wisconsin	6	8
Wyoming	S	S
Puerto Rico	NA	NA



8th grade science proficiency, black students (Percent)

State

2009

2011

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

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

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.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016