

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-8C Eighth Grade Science Proficiency, Hispanic 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.

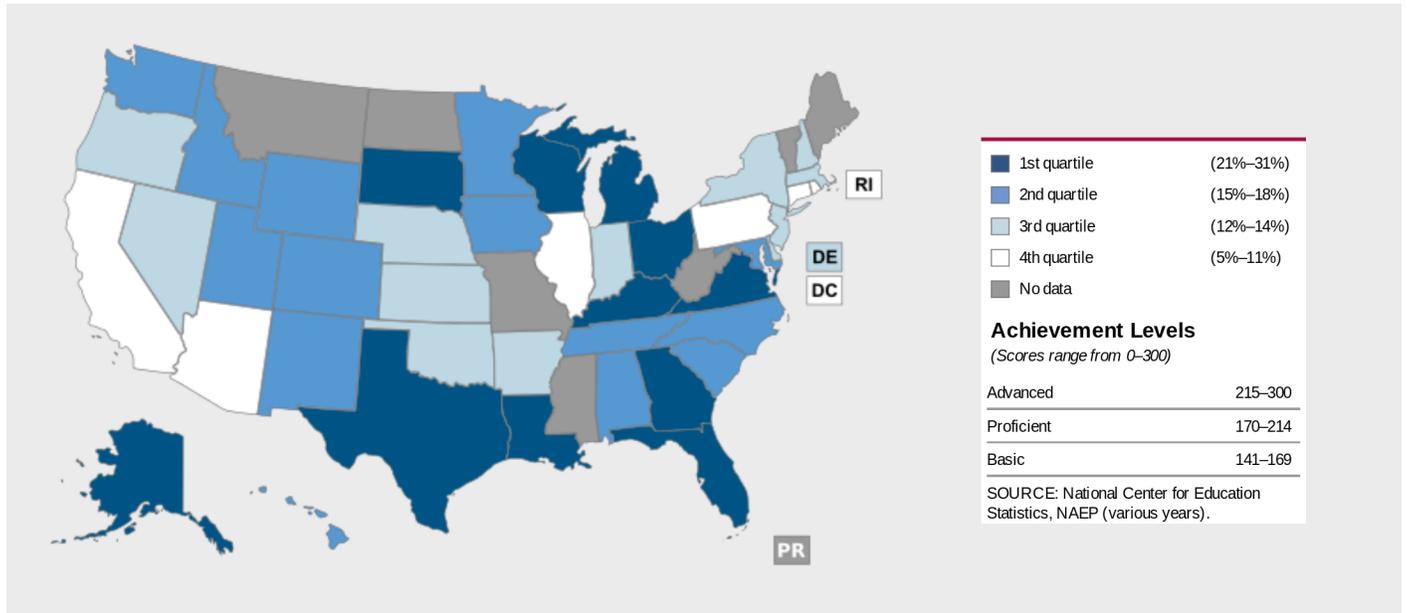
Approximately 119,600 eighth grade students, of whom 26,000 were Hispanic, participated in the 2011 NAEP science assessment. NAEP allows students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). 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 Hispanic test takers in 2011 varied on a state level from 1% to 61%. Nationally, in 2011, 22% of eighth grade science test takers were Hispanic students compared with 21% in 2009.
- In 2011, 16% of eighth grade Hispanic students nationwide performed at or above the proficient level in science, an increase from 12% 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 Hispanic students who demonstrated proficiency in science. State values ranged from 5% to 31%.
- The percentage of eighth grade Hispanic students performing at or above the proficient level in most states (33) was virtually the same in 2011 and 2009, except in California, Florida, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin, where the percentage increased between 2009 and 2011.

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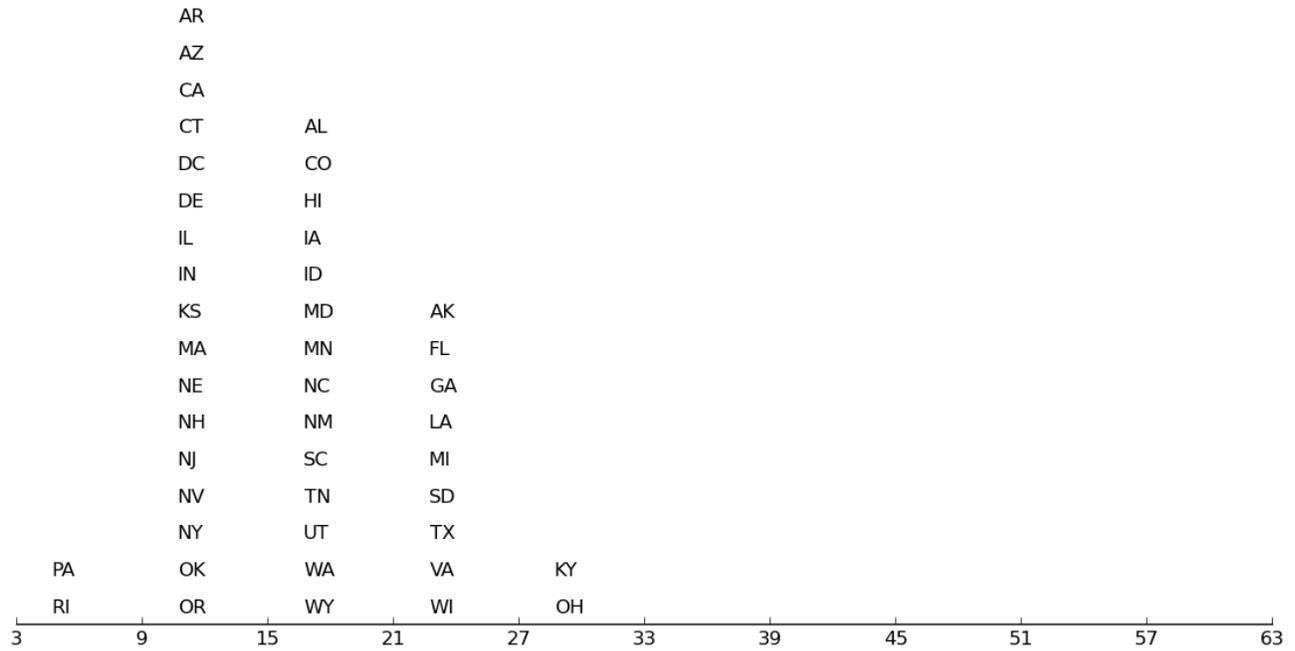
Year: 2011



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Distribution of states across indicator values



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Table 8-8C Eighth Grade Science Proficiency, Hispanic Students

State	8th grade science proficiency, Hispanic students (Percent)	
	2009	2011
United States	12	16
Alabama	10	15
Alaska	NA	23
Arizona	10	11
Arkansas	12	13
California	7	11
Colorado	14	18
Connecticut	9	11
Delaware	16	13
District of Columbia	NA	9
Florida	17	24
Georgia	15	21
Hawaii	25	18
Idaho	14	15
Illinois	10	11
Indiana	16	14
Iowa	12	15
Kansas	NA	12
Kentucky	24	27
Louisiana	S	22
Maine	S	S
Maryland	12	18
Massachusetts	14	12
Michigan	20	24
Minnesota	14	18

State	8th grade science proficiency, Hispanic students (Percent)	
	2009	2011
Mississippi	S	S
Missouri	29	S
Montana	33	S
Nebraska	NA	13
Nevada	10	12
New Hampshire	12	14
New Jersey	13	12
New Mexico	14	16
New York	11	12
North Carolina	11	15
North Dakota	S	S
Ohio	18	31
Oklahoma	9	14
Oregon	12	14
Pennsylvania	7	8
Rhode Island	5	5
South Carolina	13	16
South Dakota	10	25
Tennessee	21	18
Texas	17	23
Utah	13	15
Vermont	NA	S
Virginia	20	24
Washington	9	17
West Virginia	S	S
Wisconsin	15	24
Wyoming	12	16
Puerto Rico	NA	NA



8th grade science proficiency, Hispanic 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. Hispanic includes Latino.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2016