

Chapter 8. State Indicators

8-7 Eighth Grade Science Performance

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 and later 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.

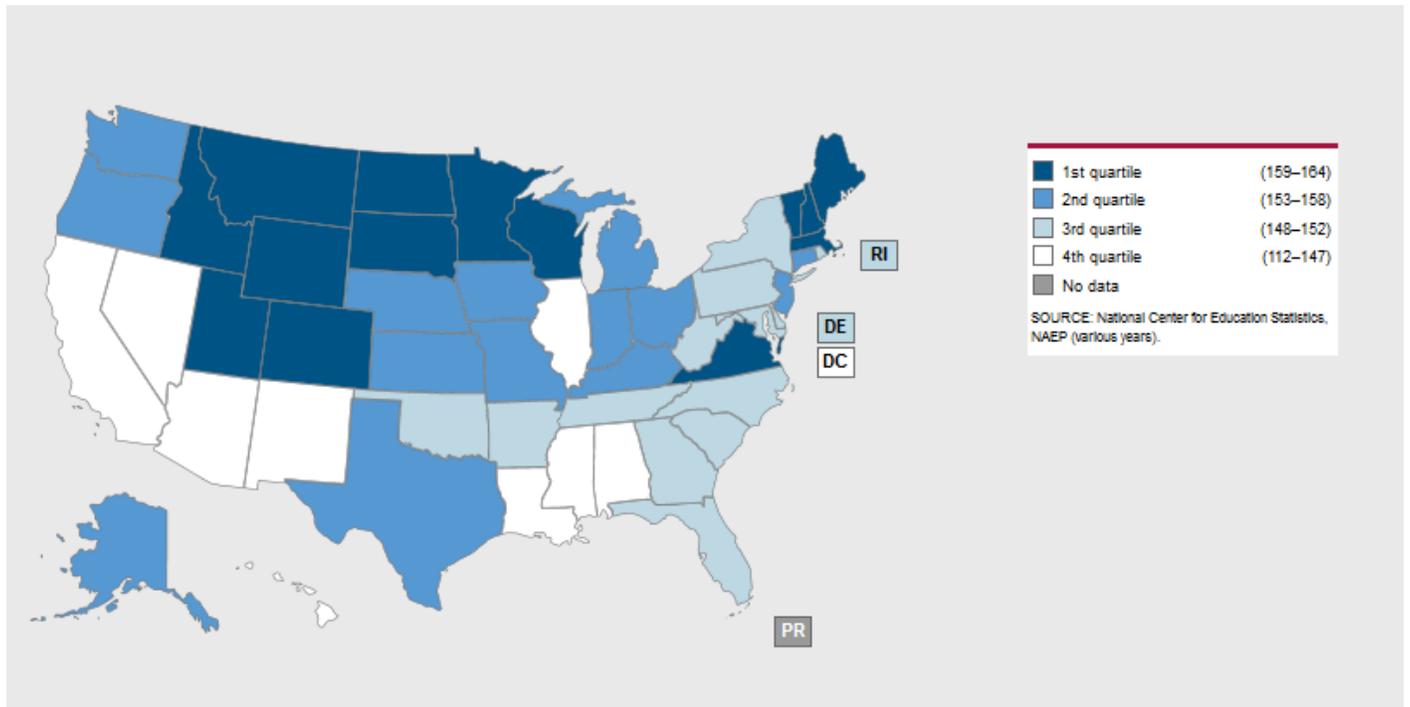
Approximately 119,600 eighth grade students in 6,690 schools participated in the 2011 NAEP science assessment. NAEP allows students with disabilities or limited English-language proficiency to use certain accommodations (e.g., extra testing time or individual rather than group administration). All data presented here represent scores from tests taken with accommodations offered.

Findings

- In 2011, the nationwide average science score of eighth grade students was 151, an increase from 149 in 2009. At the state level, average scores in 2011 ranged from a high of 164 to a low of 137.
- None of the statewide averages were lower in 2011 than in 2009. Twenty-two statewide averages were higher in 2011 than in 2009, and twenty-four statewide average scores were virtually the same in 2011 as in 2009.
- Nationally, the 2011 average science score for white eighth grade students was 163 compared to 128 for black students, a gap of 35 points, and 136 for Hispanic students, a gap of 27 points, based upon racial classifications provided by the schools. In 2009, these gaps were 36 and 30 points, respectively.
- In 2011, the national average score of Asian and Pacific Islander students was 159 compared with the white student national average of 163, a gap of 4 points, which was approximately the same gap as 2009.

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Year: 2011



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Table 8-7 Eighth Grade Science Performance

State	8th grade science performance, all students (Score out of 300)	
	2009	2011
United States	149	151
Alabama	139	140
Alaska	NA	153
Arizona	141	144
Arkansas	144	148
California	137	140
Colorado	156	161
Connecticut	155	155
Delaware	148	150
District of Columbia	NA	112
Florida	146	148
Georgia	147	151
Hawaii	139	142
Idaho	158	159
Illinois	148	147
Indiana	152	153
Iowa	156	157
Kansas	NA	156
Kentucky	156	157
Louisiana	139	143
Maine	158	160
Maryland	148	152
Massachusetts	160	161
Michigan	153	157
Minnesota	159	161

8th grade science performance, all students (Score out of 300)		
State	2009	2011
Mississippi	132	137
Missouri	156	156
Montana	162	163
Nebraska	NA	157
Nevada	141	144
New Hampshire	160	162
New Jersey	155	155
New Mexico	143	145
New York	149	149
North Carolina	144	148
North Dakota	162	164
Ohio	158	158
Oklahoma	146	148
Oregon	154	155
Pennsylvania	154	151
Rhode Island	146	149
South Carolina	143	149
South Dakota	161	162
Tennessee	148	150
Texas	150	153
Utah	158	161
Vermont	NA	163
Virginia	156	160
Washington	155	156
West Virginia	145	149
Wisconsin	157	159
Wyoming	158	160
Puerto Rico	NA	NA



8th grade science performance, all 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