



NAEP's "Percent At or Above Proficient" Can Contradict NAEP's Average Scale Score in State vs. National Public Comparisons

State vs. National Public Comparisons

The NAEP Data Explorer (NDE) is available to compare statistically a score for the nation's public schools with the score for a state. The NDE uses either average scale scores or percentage of students "at or above proficient." Each state-national comparison results in one of three statements: the state scored higher than the nation, the state's score was not statistically different from the nation's score, or the state scored lower than the nation.

NAEP 2015 Mathematics, Grade 8

The NDE state vs. national analyses of eighth grade NAEP 2015 mathematics average and "percent proficient" scores, for example, produced **contradictions in eight states**:

- **Delaware's** average score was not statistically different from the nation, but the "percent proficient" was lower than the nation.
- **Georgia's** average score was not statistically different from the nation, but the "percent proficient" was lower than the nation.
- **Hawaii's** average score was lower than the nation, but the "percent proficient" was not significantly different from the nation.
- **Idaho's** average score was higher than the nation, but the "percent proficient" was not significantly different from the nation.
- **Ohio's** average score was higher than the nation, but the "percent proficient" was not significantly different from the nation.
- **Pennsylvania's** average score was not statistically different from the nation, but the "percent proficient" was higher than the nation.
- **South Dakota's** average score was higher than the nation, but the "percent proficient" was not significantly different from the nation.
- **Texas'** average score was higher than the nation, but the "percent proficient" was not significantly different from the nation.

NAEP Achievement Levels are not "reasonable, valid or informative to the public."

The 2001 reauthorization law requires that achievement levels be used on a trial basis until the Commissioner of Education Statistics determines that the achievement levels are "reasonable, valid, and informative to the public." Until that determination is made, the law requires the Commissioner and the National Assessment Governing Board to state clearly the trial status of the achievement levels in all NAEP reports. So far, no Commissioner has made such a determination, and the achievement levels remain in a trial status. The achievement levels should continue to be interpreted and used with caution. [<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/achlevdev.aspx>]

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National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

This report was generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>

2015 Mathematics grade 8 - Average Score				2015 Mathematics grade 8 - At or Above Proficient			
Order	Jurisdiction	Difference	Average	Order	Jurisdiction	Difference	Proficient
1	Massachusetts	higher	297	1	Massachusetts	higher	51
2	New Hampshire	higher	294	2	Minnesota	higher	48
3	Minnesota	higher	294	3	New Hampshire	higher	46
4	New Jersey	higher	293	4	New Jersey	higher	46
5	Vermont	higher	290	5	Vermont	higher	42
6	Wisconsin	higher	289	6	Wisconsin	higher	41
7	North Dakota	higher	288	7	Washington	higher	39
8	Virginia	higher	288	8	North Dakota	higher	39
9	Montana	higher	287	9	Montana	higher	39
10	Indiana	higher	287	10	Indiana	higher	39
11	Wyoming	higher	287	11	Utah	higher	38
12	Washington	higher	287	12	Nebraska	higher	38
13	Nebraska	higher	286	13	Virginia	higher	38
14	Iowa	higher	286	14	Iowa	higher	37
15	Utah	higher	286	15	Colorado	higher	37
16	Colorado	higher	286	16	Connecticut	higher	36
17	Ohio	higher	285	17	Pennsylvania	higher	36
18	Maine	higher	285	18	Ohio	similar	35
19	South Dakota	higher	285	19	Maine	higher	35
20	Connecticut	higher	284	20	Wyoming	higher	35
21	Kansas	similar	284	21	Arizona	similar	35
22	Texas	higher	284	22	Maryland	similar	35
23	Idaho	higher	284	23	Idaho	similar	34
24	Pennsylvania	similar	284	24	Oregon	similar	34
25	Maryland	similar	283	25	South Dakota	similar	34
26	Arizona	similar	283	26	Kansas	similar	33
27	Oregon	similar	283	27	North Carolina	similar	33
28	Illinois	similar	282	28	Texas	similar	32
29	Rhode Island	similar	281	29	Illinois	similar	32
30	North Carolina	similar	281		National public		32
	National public		281	30	Rhode Island	similar	32
31	Missouri	similar	281	31	Alaska	similar	32
32	Alaska	similar	280	32	Missouri	similar	31
33	New York	similar	280	33	New York	similar	31
34	Delaware	similar	280	34	Hawaii	similar	30
35	Hawaii	lower	279	35	Delaware	lower	30
36	Georgia	similar	279	36	Tennessee	similar	29
37	Tennessee	similar	278	37	Michigan	lower	29
38	Michigan	lower	278	38	Georgia	lower	28
39	Kentucky	lower	278	39	Kentucky	lower	28
40	South Carolina	lower	276	40	California	lower	27
41	California	lower	275	41	Florida	lower	26
42	Florida	lower	275	42	Nevada	lower	26
43	Nevada	lower	275	43	South Carolina	lower	26
44	Arkansas	lower	275	44	Arkansas	lower	25
45	Oklahoma	lower	275	45	Oklahoma	lower	23
46	West Virginia	lower	271	46	Mississippi	lower	22
47	New Mexico	lower	271	47	New Mexico	lower	21
48	Mississippi	lower	271	48	West Virginia	lower	21
49	Louisiana	lower	268	49	Louisiana	lower	18
50	Alabama	lower	267	50	Alabama	lower	17

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2015 Mathematics Assessment.