



First Reaction to “EdTrends: Trends in Idaho Public Education”

EdTrends: Trends in Idaho public education
 Presented by Idaho Education News 2017-2018
<https://2018edttrendsreport.idahoednews.org/assets/downloads/IdahoEdTrends.pdf>

“Why this matters

“Idahoans need accurate news and data about education more than ever before because:

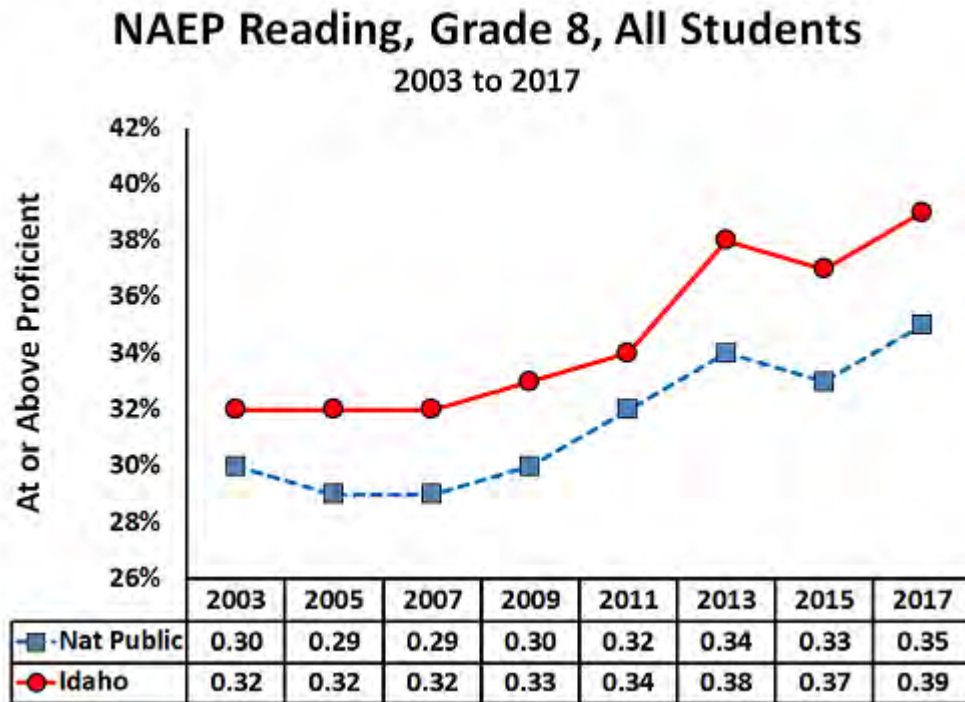
“Idaho spends \$1.8 billion in taxpayer dollars per year on public education, equal to half of all the taxes collected.

“Idahoans rank education as their No. 1 priority, ahead of the economy and the environment.

“Still, Idaho student achievement has stagnated and lags behind national indicators of performance and success.”

The only valid national indicator of student achievement is the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP has tested reading and mathematics in grades 4 and 8 each odd numbered year from 2003 through 2017. NAEP is the only achievement test in which Idaho public schools and public schools in all of the other states participate. Thus, NAEP is the only national indicator suitable for comparing the performance of Idaho’s public schools with public schools in other states or public schools across the nation.

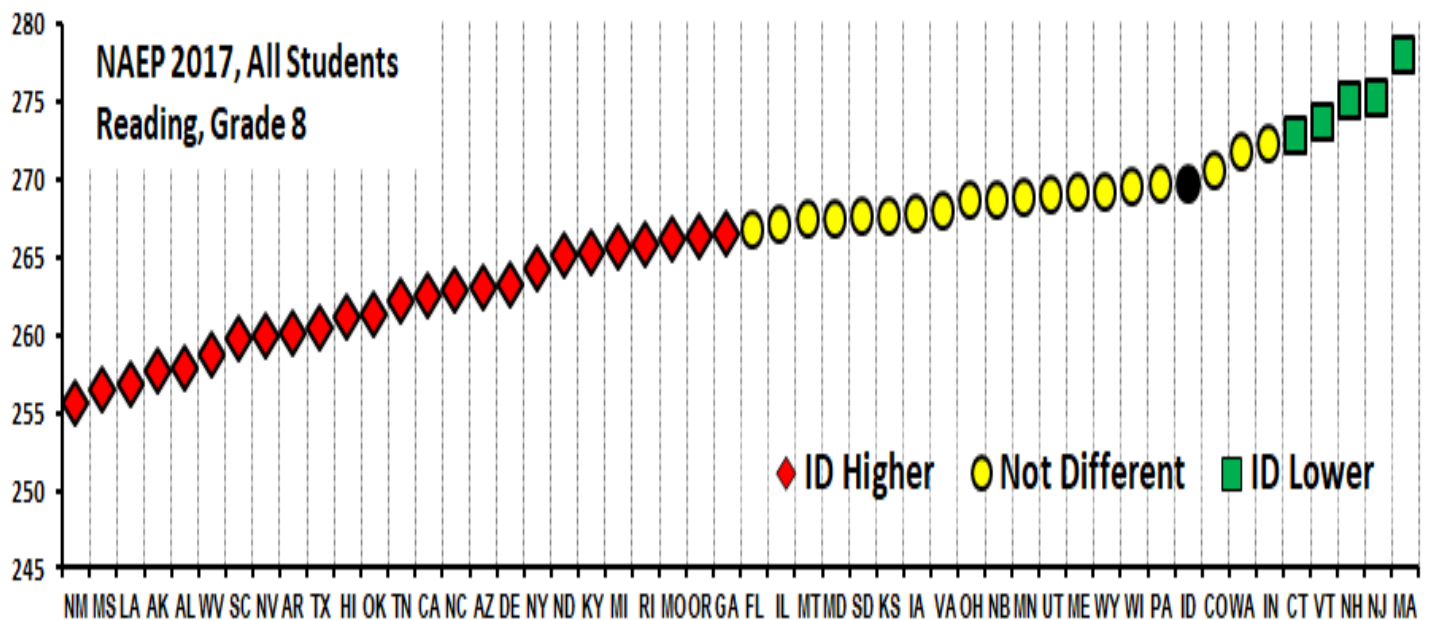
The chart below compares the “percent proficient and above” statistic for Idaho vs. National Public Schools using NAEP eighth grade reading results for all students from 2003 to 2017. Do you see that Idaho has stagnated and lags behind this valid national educator?



I apologize for using the “percent proficient and above” statistic, but many people seem to think it means something, that the statistic is valid, reliable and informative to the public. However, it isn’t. Thus, the apology. The next chart will use the “more preferred” average score and statistical analysis.

First Reaction to “EdTrends: Trends in Idaho Public Education” cont.

The chart below shows how the average score of Idaho 8th graders on the 2017 NAEP reading assessment compares with the average scores of their peers in the other states.



- Idaho’s eighth graders had a NAEP 2017 average reading score that was *higher* than their peers in twenty-six (26) states: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MI, MO, MS, NC, ND, NM, NV, NY, OK, OR, RI, SC, TN, TX, and WV.
- Idaho’s eighth graders had a NAEP 2017 average reading score that was *not significantly different* from their peers in eighteen (18) states: CO, IA, IL, IN, KS, MD, ME, MN, MT, NE, OH, PA, SD, UT, VA, WA, WI, and WY.
- Idaho’s eighth graders had a NAEP 2017 average reading score that was *lower* than their peers in five (5) states: CT, MA, NH, NJ, and VT.
- Idaho’s eighth graders in 2017 scored *higher* in reading knowledge and skills than their peers in public schools across the nation.

