

# 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

## Reading Grades 4 and 8 Summary of Facts



## Background Information

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- NAEP was established in 1969 and is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) under the U.S. Department of Education.
- It is the only federal nationally representative assessment of what young students know and can do in key subject areas. Commonly referred to as the “Nation’s Report Card,” it is used to provide a point of reference for comparisons between states and to provide an accurate and representative picture of student performance over time.
- NAEP results are used in setting education policy at a National level. States are neither rewarded nor sanctioned based on their results. The Nation’s Report Card is produced by the U.S. Department of Education and has generated more than 600 reports in its history.
- NAEP provides national and state achievement results of elementary and secondary students in the United States for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading every 2 years.
- The assessments are not designed to provide individual student, school, or district results with the exception of districts participating in NAEP’s Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program.
- The NAEP 2017 reading assessment was administered to a representative sample of fourth and eighth-graders at the national level and at the state level.
- In 2017, the NAEP reading assessment was administered for the first time as a digitally based assessment (DBA) at grades 4 and 8; prior to 2017, paper-based assessments (PBA) were administered.
- The results from the 2017 assessment can be compared to those from previous years, showing how students’ performance in Reading has changed over time.
- The student survey is no longer administered in Colorado.
- Including transition time, and directions, it takes approximately 90 minutes for students to complete the reading assessment.
- The NAEP reading assessment window for Colorado students was January 30, 2017 through March 10, 2017.

## Participation

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All 50 states, the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools participated.

### Nationwide

- Nationwide: 143,400 public school fourth- grade students in 7,440 schools participated.
- Nationwide: 137,200 public school eighth-grade students in 6,150 schools participated. Colorado

### Colorado

- Colorado: 3,200 public school fourth- grade students in 160 schools participated.
- Colorado: 3,000 public school eighth-grade students in 140 schools participated.

## Frameworks

- The NAEP Reading Framework for 2009 replaced the framework that guided the 1992 reading assessment and subsequent reading assessments through 2007. Based on results from special analysis, it was determined that even with a new framework, the results from the 2009 reading assessment could still be compared to those from previous assessment years.
- Link to Frameworks (standards): <https://www.nagb.gov/naep-frameworks/reading.html>
- The framework calls for the use of both literary and informational texts in the reading assessment.

### Types of Text

- Literary texts (all three types at each grade)
  - Fiction
  - Literary Nonfiction
  - Poetry
- Informational texts (varies by grade level – see procedural appendix for more detail)
  - Exposition
  - Argumentation and persuasive text
  - Procedural texts and documents

### Cognitive Targets

- Locate and recall: When locating or recalling information from what they have read, students may identify explicitly stated main ideas or may focus on specific elements of a story.
- Integrate and interpret: When integrating and interpreting what they have read, students may make comparisons, explain character motivation, or examine relations of ideas across the text.
- Critique and evaluate: When critiquing or evaluating what they have read, students view the text critically by examining it from numerous perspectives or may evaluate overall text quality or the effectiveness of particular aspects of the text.
- The framework calls for a systematic assessment of meaning vocabulary. Meaning vocabulary items function as both a measure of passage comprehension and of reader's knowledge of specific word meaning as used in the passage.

## Scoring

### Scale Scores

- Both the NAEP grade 4 and 8 reading scales range from 0 to 500.
- The assessments are not designed to provide individual student, school, or district results.

### Achievement Levels

	Grade 4	Grade 8
<b>Below Basic</b>	0–207	0–242
<b>Basic</b>	208–237	243–280
<b>Proficient</b>	238–267	281–322
<b>Advanced</b>	268–500	323–500

- At or above Basic includes Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. At or above Proficient includes Proficient and Advanced.
- NAEP scores are only reported as “higher” or “lower” if the difference is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Key Findings for Colorado NAEP 2017 Reading

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### Overall Key Findings for Grade Four Reading

- In 2017, the average reading score for students at grade 4 in Colorado was 225. This was higher than that for the nation's public schools (221).
- In 2017, 4 states/jurisdictions outperformed Colorado in average scale score (Department of Defense, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire), 26 states were not significantly different than Colorado, and 21 scored lower than Colorado.
- In 2017, the average score for students in Colorado (225) was not significantly different from that in 2015 (224) or from 2011 (223).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient was 40 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (35 percent).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient (40 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2015 (39 percent) or from 2011 (39 percent).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic was 71 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (67 percent).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic (71 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2015 (71 percent) or from 2011 (71 percent).

### Overall Key Findings for Grade Eight Reading

- In 2017, the average reading score for students at grade 8 in Colorado was 270. This was higher than that for the nation's public schools (265).
- In 2017, 4 states/jurisdictions outperformed Colorado in average scale score (Department of Defense, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire), 20 states were not significantly different than Colorado, and 27 scored lower than Colorado.
- In 2017, the average score for students in Colorado (270) was not significantly different from that in 2015 (268) or from 2011 (271).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient was 41 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (35 percent).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient (41 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2015 (38 percent) or from 2011 (40 percent).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic was 79 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (75 percent).
- In 2017, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic (79 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2015 (78 percent) or from 2011 (81 percent).

## National Reading Trend Results

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- In 2017, students had an average score in reading of 222 points at grade 4 and 267 points at grade 8 on separate 0 – 500 point scales.
- In grade 4, there was no significant change in the average reading score from 2015 to 2017. In grade 8, there was a 2-point increase in the average reading score in 2017 compared to 2015.
- 2017 reading scores at both grades were higher than those from the earliest Reading assessments in 1990 by five points at grade 4 and seven points at grade 8.
- 2017 reading scores at grade 8 showed an increase compared to 2015, but average reading scores in grade 4 have not increased significantly since 2009.
- In 2017, average reading scores for most student groups at grade 4 were not significantly different in comparison to 2015.
- In 2017, average reading scores for students at grade 8 increased across reportable student groups in comparison to 2015. Students in public schools, Students with disabilities, and English language learners saw score increases.

## Colorado Grade Four Reading Trend Results

- In 2017, the average scale score for students in Colorado was 225. This was higher than that for students across the nation (221).
- In 2017, the average scale score for students in Colorado was not significantly different from that in 2015 (224). Similarly, the average scale score for students in public schools across the nation in 2017 was not significantly different from that in 2015 (221).

### Race/Ethnicity

- In 2017, the average scale scores of White students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2011, 2013, and 2015.
- In 2017, the average scale scores of Hispanic students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2011, 2013, and 2015.
- In 2017, the average scale scores of Black students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2011, 2013, and 2015.
- In 2017, Hispanic students in Colorado had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. In 2011, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 33 points.
- In 2017, Black students in Colorado had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 29 points. In 2011, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 28 points.
- In 2017, 1 state/jurisdiction had a higher White–Hispanic score gap than Colorado, 32 states/jurisdictions had a White–Hispanic score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 15 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Hispanic score gap.
- In 2017, 1 state/jurisdiction had a higher White–Black score gap than Colorado, 37 states/jurisdictions had a White–Black score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 3 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Black score gap.

### Gender

- In 2017, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (222) that was lower than that of female students (228). In 2011, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (219) that was lower than that of female students (228).
- In 2017, male students in Colorado had an average scale score in reading (222) that was higher than that of male students in public schools across the nation (218). Similarly, female students in Colorado had an average scale score (228) that was higher than that of female students across the nation (224).

### Student Eligibility for the National School Lunch Program

- In 2017, students in Colorado eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average reading scale score of 208. This was lower than that of students in Colorado not eligible for this program (238).
- In 2017, students in Colorado who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible by 29 points. In 2011, the gap between the average scores of these two groups was 33 points.
- In 2017, students in Colorado eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average scale score (208) that was not significantly different from that of students in the nation who were eligible (208).
- In 2017, 1 state/jurisdiction had a higher eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap than Colorado, 36 states/jurisdictions had an eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap that was not significantly different from Colorado, and 13 states/jurisdictions had a lower eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap.

### Students with Disabilities

- In 2017, students with disabilities in Colorado had a lower average score (178) than the average score of students without disabilities (231) by 53 points. Colorado's 53 point score gap between students with disabilities and non-disabled students was larger than the national 40 point score gap between these groups.

### English Language Learners

- In 2017, English language learners in Colorado had a lower average score (231) than the average score of non-English language learners (231) by 41 points. Colorado's 41 point English language learners – non-English language learners score gap was not significantly different than the national 37 point score gap.

## Colorado Grade Eight Reading Trend Results

- In 2017, the average scale score for students in Colorado was 270. This was higher than that for students across the nation (265).
- In 2017, the average scale score for students in Colorado was not significantly different from that in 2015 (268). However, the average scale score for students in public schools across the nation in 2017 was higher than that in 2015 (264).

### Race/Ethnicity

- In 2017, the average scale score of White students in Colorado was not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2011, 2013, and 2015.
- In 2017, the average scale score of Black students in Colorado was not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2011, 2013, and 2015.
- In 2017, the average scale score of Hispanic students in Colorado was not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2011, 2013, and 2015.
- In 2017, Black students in Colorado had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 28 points. In 2011, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 21 points.
- In 2017, Hispanic students in Colorado had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 22 points. In 2011, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 24 points.
- In 2017, 4 states/jurisdictions had a higher White–Hispanic score gap than Colorado, 31 states/jurisdictions had a White–Hispanic score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 13 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Hispanic score gap.
- In 2017, 1 state/jurisdiction had a higher White–Black score gap than Colorado, 38 states/jurisdictions had a White–Black score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 2 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Black score gap.

### Gender

- In 2017, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (266) that was lower than that of female students (275). In 2011, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (268) that was lower than that of female students (274).
- In 2017, male students in Colorado had an average scale score in reading (266) that was higher than that of male students in public schools across the nation (260). Similarly, female students in Colorado had an average scale score (275) that was higher than that of female students across the nation (270).

### Student Eligibility for the National School Lunch Program

- In 2017, students in Colorado eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average reading scale score of 254. This was lower than that of students in Colorado not eligible for this program (281).
- In 2017, students in Colorado who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible by 27 points. In 2011, the gap between the average scores of these two groups was also 27 points.
- In 2017, students in Colorado eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average scale score (254) that was not significantly different from that of students in the nation who were eligible (253).
- In 2017, 2 states/jurisdictions had a higher eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap than Colorado, 28 states/jurisdictions had an eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 20 states/jurisdictions had a lower eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap.

### Students with Disabilities

- In 2017, students with disabilities in Colorado had a lower average score (234) than the average score of students without disabilities (275) by 40 points. Colorado's 40 point score gap between students with disabilities and non-disabled students was not significantly different than the national 39 point score gap between these groups.



## English Language Learners

- In 2017, English language learners in Colorado had a lower average score (274) than the average score of non-English language learners (232) by 42 points. Colorado's 42 point gap between students who are English language learners and students who are not English language learners was the same as the national 42 point score gap between these groups.

## Links

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- NAEP website: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/>
- Links to individual snapshot reports for each participating state and other jurisdictions: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>
- Link to The NAEP Data Explorer interactive database: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>
- NAEP 101 Video: [http://youtu.be/J6Zml8b\\_EKI](http://youtu.be/J6Zml8b_EKI)