

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

| Reading | | | | Reading | | | | Math | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Percent of 4th graders scoring at or above proficient in 2003 | | | | Percent of 8th graders scoring at or above proficient in 2003 | | | | Percent of 4th graders scoring at or above proficient in 2003 | | | |
| | NAEP | State test ³ | Difference ⁷ | | NAEP | State test ³ | Difference ⁷ | | NAEP | State test ³ | Difference ⁷ |
| Connecticut | 43 | 69 | 26 | Massachusetts | 43 | 65 | 22 | New Hampshire | 43 | 79 | 36 |
| Massachusetts | 40 ¹ | 56 | 16 | New Hampshire | 40 | — | — | Minnesota | 42 ² | 75 | 33 |
| New Hampshire | 40 | 76 | 36 | South Dakota | 39 | 78 | 39 | Vermont | 42 ² | 40 ⁸ | -2 |
| New Jersey | 39 | 78 | 39 | Vermont | 39 | 36 ⁴ | -3 | Connecticut | 41 ² | 80 | 39 |
| Colorado | 37 | 87 | 50 | North Dakota | 38 ² | 69 | 31 | Kansas | 41 ² | 74 | 33 |
| Minnesota | 37 | 76 | 39 | Connecticut | 37 | 77 | 40 | Massachusetts | 41 ² | 40 | -1 |
| Vermont | 37 | 70 ⁴ | 33 | Maine | 37 | 45 | 8 | North Carolina | 41 ² | 92 | 51 |
| Maine | 36 | 49 | 13 | Minnesota | 37 | — | — | New Jersey | 39 | 68 | 29 |
| Iowa | 35 | 76 ⁵ | 41 | Montana | 37 | 70 | 33 | Wyoming | 39 ² | 37 | -2 |
| Montana | 35 | 76 | 41 | New Jersey | 37 | 74 | 37 | Iowa | 36 ² | 75 ⁵ | 39 |
| Virginia | 35 | 73 | 38 | Wisconsin | 37 | 84 | 47 | Ohio | 36 ² | 59 | 23 |
| Missouri | 34 | 34 | 0 | Colorado | 36 | 86 | 50 | Pennsylvania | 36 | 56 | 20 |
| New York | 34 | 64 | 30 | Iowa | 36 | 69 ⁵ | 33 | Virginia | 36 ² | 83 | 47 |
| Ohio | 34 | 66 | 32 | Virginia | 36 | 70 | 34 | Washington | 36 | 55 | 19 |
| Wyoming | 34 | 44 | 10 | Illinois | 35 | 64 | 29 | Indiana | 35 ² | 67 | 32 |
| Delaware | 33 | 79 | 46 | Kansas | 35 | 71 | 36 | Wisconsin | 35 | 72 | 37 |
| Indiana | 33 | 72 | 39 | Nebraska | 35 | 77 | 42 | Colorado | 34 | 86 | 52 |
| Kansas | 33 | 69 | 36 | New York | 35 | 45 | 10 | Maine | 34 ² | 28 | -6 |
| North Carolina | 33 | 81 | 48 | Kentucky | 34 | 57 | 23 | Michigan | 34 ² | 65 | 31 |
| Pennsylvania | 33 | 58 | 25 | Missouri | 34 | 32 | -2 | Nebraska | 34 ² | 78 ⁹ | 44 |
| South Dakota | 33 | 85 | 52 | Ohio | 34 | 87 | 53 | North Dakota | 34 ² | 58 | 24 |
| Washington | 33 | 67 | 34 | Wyoming | 34 | 39 | 5 | South Dakota | 34 | 73 | 39 |
| Wisconsin | 33 | 82 | 49 | Indiana | 33 | 64 | 31 | New York | 33 ² | 78 | 45 |
| Florida | 32 ² | 60 | 28 | Oregon | 33 | 60 | 27 | Oregon | 33 ² | 78 | 45 |
| Maryland | 32 | 58 | 26 | Washington | 33 | 48 | 15 | Texas | 33 ² | 87 | 54 |
| Michigan | 32 | 75 | 43 | Idaho | 32 | 73 | 41 | Illinois | 32 ² | 76 | 44 |
| Nebraska | 32 | 79 | 47 | Michigan | 32 | 61 | 29 | South Carolina | 32 ² | 34 | 2 |
| North Dakota | 32 | 74 | 42 | Pennsylvania | 32 | 63 | 31 | Delaware | 31 | 74 | 43 |
| Utah | 32 | 78 | 46 | Utah | 32 | 68 | 36 | Florida | 31 | 54 | 23 |
| Illinois | 31 | 62 | 31 | Delaware | 31 | 70 | 39 | Idaho | 31 ² | 77 | 46 |
| Kentucky | 31 | 62 | 31 | Maryland | 31 | 60 | 29 | Maryland | 31 ² | 65 | 34 |
| Oregon | 31 | 83 | 52 | Oklahoma | 30 | 79 | 49 | Montana | 31 ² | 73 | 42 |
| Idaho | 30 | 75 | 45 | Rhode Island | 30 | 41 | 11 | Utah | 31 ² | 72 | 41 |
| Rhode Island | 29 | 62 | 33 | North Carolina | 29 | 86 | 57 | Alaska | 30 | 72 | 42 |
| West Virginia | 29 | 73 ⁵ | 44 | Alaska | 27 | 68 | 41 | Missouri | 30 ² | 37 | 7 |
| Alaska | 28 | 74 | 46 | Arkansas | 27 | 42 | 15 | Rhode Island | 28 ² | 42 | 14 |
| Arkansas | 28 | 62 | 34 | Florida | 27 | 49 | 22 | Georgia | 27 ² | 74 | 47 |
| Georgia | 27 | 80 | 53 | Georgia | 26 | 81 | 55 | Arkansas | 26 ² | 61 | 35 |
| Texas | 27 | 85 | 58 | Tennessee | 26 | 80 | 54 | Arizona | 25 ² | 66 | 41 |
| Oklahoma | 26 | 74 | 48 | Texas | 26 ¹ | 88 | 62 | California | 25 ² | 45 | 20 |
| South Carolina | 26 | 31 | 5 | Arizona | 25 | 55 | 30 | Tennessee | 24 ² | 79 | 55 |
| Tennessee | 26 | 80 | 54 | West Virginia | 25 ¹ | 80 ⁵ | 55 | West Virginia | 24 ² | 69 ⁵ | 45 |
| Arizona | 23 | 77 | 54 | South Carolina | 24 | 20 | -4 | Hawaii | 23 ² | 24 | 1 |
| Alabama | 22 | 77 ⁵ | 55 | Alabama | 22 | 58 ⁵ | 36 | Nevada | 23 ² | 50 | 27 |
| California | 21 | 39 | 18 | California | 22 | 30 | 8 | Oklahoma | 23 ² | 72 | 49 |
| Hawaii | 21 | 42 | 21 | Hawaii | 22 | 39 | 17 | Kentucky | 22 ² | 38 | 16 |
| Louisiana | 20 | 61 | 41 | Louisiana | 22 | 53 | 31 | Louisiana | 21 ² | 59 | 38 |
| Nevada | 20 | 49 | 29 | Mississippi | 21 | 57 | 36 | Alabama | 19 ² | 72 ⁵ | 53 |
| New Mexico | 19 | 45 | 26 | Nevada | 21 | — | — | Mississippi | 17 ² | 74 | 57 |
| Mississippi | 18 | 87 | 69 | New Mexico | 20 | 51 | 31 | New Mexico | 17 ² | 53 | 36 |
| District of Columbia | 10 | — | — | District of Columbia | 10 | — | — | District of Columbia | 7 ² | — | — |
| U.S. | 30 | — | — | U.S. | 30 | — | — | U.S. | 31² | — | — |

Note: A dash (—) indicates data were not available or, in U.S. row, that a total was not appropriate. States are ranked by the percent of students scoring at or above proficient on NAEP; ties are ranked alphabetically.
¹State had a statistically significant decrease since the last administration of the exam.
²State had a statistically significant increase since the last administration of the exam.
³If states did not offer tests in 2003 at grade 4 or 8, Education Week accepted test results from the next closest grade level.
Please see the Sources and Notes on Page 105 for more information on the grade levels assessed by states included in this table.

⁴Vermont assesses reading performance in two separate areas: analysis/interpretation and basic understanding. Student performance on the basic-understanding standard is significantly higher than performance on the analysis/interpretation standard. The percentage of students who achieved the standard or achieved the standard with honors in analysis/interpretation is presented as a comparison to NAEP.
⁵Iowa reading and mathematics scores represent the average between scores from the 2001-02 and 2002-03 school years.
⁶Alabama and West Virginia reading and mathematics scores are from 2004.
⁷Column denotes differences between the total percent of students scoring at or above proficient on NAEP and the total percent

| Math | | | | High School Achievement | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------|---|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|
| Percent of 8th graders scoring at or above proficient in 2003 | | | | Percent of high school students taking upper-level (2002): | | Percent of 9th to 12th graders who dropped out of school (2001) | Graduation rates (2002) | | | | "Chance for college" (2002) ¹¹ | |
| NAEP | State test ³ | Difference ⁷ | Mathematics courses | Science courses | State | | White | Black | Hispanic | | | |
| Minnesota | 44 ² | — | — | Alabama | — | — | 4.1 | 58 | 62 | 51 | — | 33 |
| Massachusetts | 38 ² | 37 | -1 | Alaska | — | — | 8.2 | 59 | 73 | 59 | — | 28 |
| North Dakota | 36 ² | 44 | 8 | Arizona | — | — | 10.9 | 70 | — | — | — | 31 |
| Connecticut | 35 | 77 | 42 | Arkansas | 56 | 28 | 5.3 | 72 | 75 | 66 | — | 42 |
| Montana | 35 | 69 | 34 | California | 33 | 18 | — | 67 | 76 | 59 | 54 | 35 |
| New Hampshire | 35 | — | — | Colorado | — | — | — | 72 | 80 | 61 | 47 | 40 |
| South Dakota | 35 | 56 | 21 | Connecticut | 53 | 38 | 3.0 | 79 | 88 | 61 | 49 | 47 |
| Vermont | 35 ² | 48 ⁸ | 13 | Delaware | — | — | 4.2 | 63 | 68 | 54 | — | 26 |
| Wisconsin | 35 | 76 | 41 | District of Columbia | 46 | 32 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Colorado | 34 | 68 | 34 | Florida | 38 | 26 | 4.4 | 59 | 67 | 49 | 50 | 31 |
| Kansas | 34 | 60 | 26 | Georgia | — | — | 7.2 | 56 | 63 | 48 | — | 32 |
| Iowa | 33 | 72 ⁵ | 39 | Hawaii | — | — | 5.7 | 63 | 86 | — | 67 | 31 |
| New Jersey | 33 | 57 | 24 | Idaho | 40 | 18 | 5.6 | 75 | — | — | — | 35 |
| Nebraska | 32 | 72 ⁹ | 40 | Illinois | — | — | 6.0 | 74 | 85 | 52 | 52 | 42 |
| New York | 32 ² | 51 | 19 | Indiana | 46 | 30 | — | 72 | 75 | 52 | — | 42 |
| North Carolina | 32 ² | 82 | 50 | Iowa | 50 | 39 | 2.7 | 85 | 87 | 61 | — | 51 |
| Oregon | 32 | 59 | 27 | Kansas | — | — | 3.2 | 78 | — | — | — | 41 |
| Washington | 32 | 37 | 5 | Kentucky | — | — | 4.6 | 68 | 71 | 57 | — | 38 |
| Wyoming | 32 ² | 35 | 3 | Louisiana | 49 | 24 | 8.3 | 63 | 69 | 56 | 73 | 33 |
| Indiana | 31 | 66 | 35 | Maine | — | — | 3.1 | 75 | 75 | — | — | 38 |
| Utah | 31 ² | 61 ¹⁰ | 30 | Maryland | — | — | 4.1 | 77 | 81 | 69 | 68 | 41 |
| Virginia | 31 ² | 75 | 44 | Massachusetts | 59 | 38 | 3.4 | 75 | 81 | 59 | 46 | 48 |
| Alaska | 30 | 64 | 34 | Michigan | 40 | 27 | — | 78 | 78 | 56 | 48 | 38 |
| Maryland | 30 | 40 | 10 | Minnesota | 49 | 30 | 4.0 | 84 | 88 | 54 | — | 53 |
| Ohio | 30 | 71 | 41 | Mississippi | 50 | 43 | 4.6 | 60 | 64 | 57 | — | 36 |
| Pennsylvania | 30 | 51 | 21 | Missouri | 55 | 34 | 4.2 | 76 | 79 | 63 | — | 39 |
| Illinois | 29 | 53 | 24 | Montana | — | — | 4.2 | 78 | 80 | — | — | 43 |
| Maine | 29 | 17 | -12 | Nebraska | 61 | 38 | 4.0 | 83 | 87 | 50 | 60 | 48 |
| Idaho | 28 | 52 | 24 | Nevada | 32 | 20 | 5.2 | 68 | 75 | 66 | — | 28 |
| Michigan | 28 | 52 | 24 | New Hampshire | — | — | 5.4 | 78 | — | — | — | 42 |
| Missouri | 28 ² | 14 | -14 | New Jersey | — | — | 2.8 | 89 | — | — | — | 53 |
| Delaware | 26 | 47 | 21 | New Mexico | 34 | 19 | 5.3 | 65 | — | — | — | 35 |
| South Carolina | 26 ² | 19 | -7 | New York | 55 | 34 | 3.8 | 64 | 81 | 42 | 36 | 37 |
| Texas | 25 | 72 | 47 | North Carolina | 59 | 26 | 6.3 | 67 | — | — | — | 39 |
| Kentucky | 24 | 31 | 7 | North Dakota | 53 | 35 | 2.2 | 85 | 87 | — | — | 62 |
| Rhode Island | 24 | 34 | 10 | Ohio | 47 | 23 | 3.9 | 78 | 83 | 55 | 55 | 41 |
| Florida | 23 | 56 | 33 | Oklahoma | 49 | 28 | 5.2 | 79 | 81 | 70 | 59 | 37 |
| California | 22 ² | 30 | 8 | Oregon | — | — | 5.3 | 71 | 72 | 61 | 50 | 33 |
| Georgia | 22 | 67 | 45 | Pennsylvania | — | — | 3.6 | 80 | 86 | 58 | — | 45 |
| Arizona | 21 | 21 | 0 | Rhode Island | — | — | 5.0 | 74 | 72 | 70 | — | 38 |
| Tennessee | 21 ² | 79 | 58 | South Carolina | — | — | 3.3 | 53 | — | — | — | 29 |
| Nevada | 20 | — | — | South Dakota | 54 | 41 | 3.9 | 76 | 81 | — | — | 48 |
| Oklahoma | 20 | 73 | 53 | Tennessee | 49 | 20 | 4.3 | 57 | — | — | — | 36 |
| West Virginia | 20 | 69 ⁶ | 49 | Texas | 59 | 29 | 4.2 | 68 | 77 | 66 | 57 | 33 |
| Arkansas | 19 ² | 23 | 4 | Utah | — | — | 3.7 | 78 | 81 | — | — | 38 |
| Hawaii | 17 | 17 | 0 | Vermont | 41 | 29 | 4.7 | 78 | — | — | — | 35 |
| Louisiana | 17 ² | 51 | 34 | Virginia | — | — | 3.5 | 74 | 77 | 64 | — | 40 |
| Alabama | 16 | 25 ⁶ | 9 | Washington | — | — | — | 72 | 74 | 59 | 53 | 30 |
| New Mexico | 15 ² | 46 | 31 | West Virginia | 59 | 44 | 4.2 | 76 | 76 | 67 | — | 38 |
| Mississippi | 12 ² | 48 | 36 | Wisconsin | 58 | 36 | 2.3 | 85 | 91 | 50 | 58 | 46 |
| District of Columbia | 6 | — | — | Wyoming | 51 | 25 | 6.4 | 73 | 75 | — | 59 | 40 |
| U.S. | 27² | — | — | U.S. | 48 | 31 | — | 71 | 78 | 56 | 52 | 38 |

²of students scoring at or above proficient on the state required assessment at the equivalent subject and grade.
³Vermont assesses math performance in three separate areas: math concepts, math skills, and problem-solving. Student performance on the math-skills standard is significantly higher than performance on NAEP, while student performance on concepts and problem-solving is roughly comparable. The percentage of students who achieved the standard or achieved the standard with honors on math problem-solving is presented as a comparison with NAEP.

⁹Nebraska's mathematics scores are from 2002.
¹⁰Utah's elementary-algebra exam is typically given at grade 8, but may also be given to students in other grades.
¹¹Data indicate the percent of entering 9th graders who graduate with regular high school diplomas four years later and go on to enroll in degree-granting two- or four-year institutions of higher education.