

Background Information

- 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 4th and 8th 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 2019 reading assessment was administered to a representative sample of fourth and eighth-graders at the national level and at the state level.
- In 2019, the NAEP mathematics assessment was administered as a digitally based assessment (DBA) at grades 4 and 8; prior to 2017, paper-based assessments (PBA) were administered.
- The results from the 2019 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, 2019 through March 10, 2019.

Participation

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

Nationwide

- Nationwide: 144,700 public school fourth- grade students in 7,830 schools participated.
- Nationwide: 138,100 public school eighth-grade students in 6,550 schools participated.

Colorado

- Colorado: 3,200 public school fourth- grade students in 170 schools participated.
- Colorado: 3,100 public school eighth-grade students in 150 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
Below Basic	0–207	0–242
Basic	208–237	243–280
Proficient	238–267	281–322
Advanced	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 2019 Reading

Overall Key Findings for Grade Four Reading

- In 2019, the average reading score for students at grade 4 in Colorado was 225. This was higher than that for the nation's public schools (219).
- In 2019, 2 states/jurisdictions outperformed Colorado in average scale score (Department of Defense and Massachusetts), 15 states were not significantly different from Colorado, and 34 scored lower than Colorado.
- In 2019, the average score for students in Colorado (225) was the same as 2017 (225) and not significantly different from that in from 2011 (223).
- In 2019, 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 (34 percent).
- In 2019, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient (40 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2017 (40 percent) or from 2011 (39 percent).
- In 2019, 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 (65 percent).
- In 2019, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic (71 percent) was the same as in 2017 (71 percent) and not significantly different from that in from 2011 (71 percent).

Overall Key Findings for Grade Eight Reading

- In 2019, the average reading score for students at grade 8 in Colorado was 267. This was higher than that for the nation's public schools (262).
- In 2019, 2 states/jurisdictions outperformed Colorado in average scale score (Department of Defense and Massachusetts), 16 states were not significantly different from Colorado, and 33 scored lower than Colorado.
- In 2019, the average score for students in Colorado (267) was not significantly different from that in 2017 (270) or from 2011 (271).
- In 2019, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient was 38 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (32 percent).
- In 2019, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Proficient (38 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2017 (41 percent) or from 2011 (40 percent).
- In 2019, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic was 77 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (72 percent).
- In 2019, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above Basic (77 percent) was not significantly different from that in 2017 (79 percent) and significantly different from 2011 (81 percent).

National Reading Trend Results

- In 2019, students had an average score in reading of 220 points at grade 4 and 263 points at grade 8 on separate 0 – 500 point scales.
- Lower reading scores at both grades in 2019 than in 2017
- Ten year reading trend line shows that the average reading score at each grade is not significantly different compared to a decade ago but is higher compared to the first assessment year in 1992.
- In 2019, at grade 4, nine of the 17 states with an overall score decrease also had a score decrease for male students only, which reflects the decrease for male students only at the national level.
- In 2019, at grade 8, nine of the 31 states with an overall score decrease also had a score decrease for both males and females, which reflects the decrease at the national level for both genders. Twelve of the 31 states with an overall score decrease showed a decrease for male students only.
- In 2019, in grade 4 lower reading scores at all selected percentiles except the 90th compared to 2017 while reading scores were lower for eighth-graders performing at all selected percentiles.
- NAEP scores are reported at five selected percentiles to show the progress made by lower- (10th and 25th percentiles), middle- (50th percentile), and higher- (75th and 90th percentiles) performing students.

Colorado Grade Four Reading Subgroup Trend Results

Race/Ethnicity

- In 2019, the average scale scores of White and Hispanic students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017.
- In 2019, the average scale scores of Black students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 1998, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017.
- In 2019, Hispanic students in Colorado had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 27 points. In 2011, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 33 points.
- In 2019, Black students in Colorado had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 24 points. In 2011, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 28 points.
- In 2019, 1 state/jurisdiction had a higher White–Hispanic score gap than Colorado, 26 states/jurisdictions had a White–Hispanic score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 22 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Hispanic score gap.
- In 2019, 6 state/jurisdiction had a higher White–Black score gap than Colorado, 32 states/jurisdictions had a White–Black score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 1 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Black score gap.

Gender

- In 2019, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (221) that was lower than that of female students (229). In 2011, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (219) that was lower than that of female students (228).
- In 2019, male students in Colorado had an average scale score in reading (221) that was higher than that of male students in public schools across the nation (216). Similarly, female students in Colorado had an average scale score (229) that was higher than that of female students across the nation (223).

Student Eligibility for the National School Lunch Program

- In 2019, 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 2019, 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 30 points. In 2011, the gap between the average scores of these two groups was 33 points.
- In 2019, 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 (207).
- In 2019, 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 2019, students with disabilities in Colorado had a lower average score (184) than the average score of students without disabilities (230) by 46 points. Colorado's 46-point score gap between students with disabilities and non-disabled students were not significantly different than the national 41-point score gap between these groups.

English Language Learners

- In 2019, English language learners in Colorado had a lower average score (187) than the average score of non-English language learners (231) by 44 points. Colorado's 44 point English language learners – non-English language learners score gap was larger than the national 33 point score gap.

Colorado Grade Eight Reading Subgroup Trend Results

Race/Ethnicity

- In 2019, the average scale scores of White students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 2003, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017.
- In 2019, the average scale scores of Hispanic students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017.
- In 2019, the average scale scores of Black students in Colorado were not significantly different from their respective average scale scores in 1998, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017.
- In 2019, 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 24 points.
- In 2019, Black students in Colorado had an average scale score that was lower than that of White students by 31 points. In 2011, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 22 points.
- In 2019, 2 states/jurisdictions had a higher White–Hispanic score gap than Colorado, 17 states/jurisdictions had a White–Hispanic score gap not significantly different from Colorado, and 29 states/jurisdictions had a lower White–Hispanic score gap.
- In 2019, 1 state/jurisdiction had a higher White–Black score gap than Colorado, 36 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 2019, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (262) that was lower than that of female students (273). In 2011, male students in Colorado had an average score in reading (268) that was lower than that of female students (274).
- In 2019, male students in Colorado had an average scale score in reading (262) that was higher than that of male students in public schools across the nation (256). Similarly, female students in Colorado had an average scale score (273) that was higher than that of female students across the nation (268).

Student Eligibility for the National School Lunch Program

- In 2019, students in Colorado eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average reading scale score of 250. This was lower than that of students in Colorado not eligible for this program (278).
- In 2019, 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 28 points. In 2011, the gap between the average scores of these two groups was also 27 points.
- In 2019, students in Colorado eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average scale score (250) that was not significantly different from that of students in the nation who were eligible (249).
- In 2019, 1 states/jurisdictions had a higher eligible/not eligible for free/reduced-price-lunch score gap than Colorado, 29 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 2019, students with disabilities in Colorado had a lower average score (231) than the average score of students without disabilities (272) by 40 points. Colorado's 41-point score gap between students with disabilities and non-disabled students was not significantly different from the national 39 point score gap between these groups.



English Language Learners

- In 2019, English language learners in Colorado had a lower average score (219) than the average score of non-English language learners (271) by 42 points. Colorado's 52 point gap between students who are English language learners and students who are not English language learners was significantly different from as the national 45 point score gap between these groups.

Links

- 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