



May 10, 2012

News Release

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CDE Communications Office

Eighth-graders show improvement in science achievement on The Nation's Report Card

Colorado outperforms 36 other states

Colorado's eighth-graders improved their performance in science according to the latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as The Nation's Report Card.

In 2011, the average science score for eighth-grade students in Colorado was 161. This was higher than that of the nation's public schools (151). Colorado's average score was also higher than its 2009 (156) score.

Colorado highlights:

- In 2011, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above *Proficient* was 42 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (31 percent). In 2009, the number at or above *Proficient* was 36 percent.
- In 2011, the percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above *Basic* was 75 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (64 percent). The percentage of students in Colorado who performed at or above *Basic* in 2009 was 70 percent.
- Only one state, North Dakota, scored higher than CO in the 2011 science assessment; CO scored 161 and North Dakota scored 164.
- Colorado outperformed 36 states and was not significantly different than 14 states.

Additional Colorado highlights can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoNAEP.asp>

NAEP was established in 1969 and is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) under the U.S. Department of Education. Nationwide, 7,300 schools participated and 122,000 students participated, including all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools. In Colorado, 102 schools participated and 1,900 students participated. The President and Congress use NAEP results in setting education policy. States are neither rewarded nor sanctioned based on their results.

The Nation's Report Card: Science 2011 is available at <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>. Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for more information on recent results.

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