



Foundation for Education Reform & Accountability

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NAEP Scores Show More Money Doesn't Buy Results

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading exam scores released today show that despite massive spending increases in education, test scores have barely budged over the last seven years and two-thirds of the state's public school children unable to demonstrate proficiency.

While funding (local, state and federal) for public elementary and secondary education in New York State grew by a whopping 52 percent between the 2001-02 and 2008-09 school years, both 4th- and 8th-grade reading proficiency rates increased by only a single percentage point during the same period: in 4th grade, the proficiency rate increased from 35 percent in 2002 to 36 percent in 2009; in 8th grade, it increased from 32 percent to 33 percent.

Additionally, although New York posts the highest per pupil spending in the nation (\$16,102) – 57 percent above the national average – New York ranked 12th nationally in 4th grade and 19th in 8th grade.

According to B. Jason Brooks, director of research at the Foundation for Education Reform & Accountability, "The NAEP results show that New York has nothing to show for the billions more in education spending that has occurred in the last seven years."

Brooks also offered the following statements on the new NAEP reading results:

NYS Racial Achievement Gaps Among the Largest in the Nation

"New York State has the 7th-largest racial achievement gap in the nation when comparing the 8th grade reading proficiency rates of Black students to those of White students. The achievement gap between Whites and Hispanics is even worse, the 5th-largest in the country."

	% Students Proficient			Racial Achievement Gap			
	White	Black	Hispanic	Black v. White	National Rank	Hispanic v. White	National Rank
4 th grade	45%	18%	22%	-27%	18th	-23%	18th
8 th grade	44%	13%	16%	-31%	7th	-28%	5th

Behind the Rankings

"While some may tout that New York's rank among states in terms of 4th-grade proficiency has increased from 16th in 2007 to 12th in 2009, a closer examination shows this was due only to the deterioration of educational performance in other states, not to any increase in the proficiency of students in New York. Over that two-year period, New York's proficiency rate remained unchanged at 36 percent."

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The Foundation for Education Reform & Accountability (FERA) is an independent, nonprofit, research organization dedicated to improving education in New York State by promoting accountability, stimulating innovation, and supporting school-choice efforts across the state.

Attachments:

- Percent of Students Scoring At or Above Proficiency on NAEP Reading Exams
- Racial Achievement Gaps on the 2009 NAEP Reading Exam

Accountability • Innovation • Choice

GRADE 4 - PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT ON NAEP READING EXAM

State	2009		2007		2005		2 Yr. Δ ('09 vs. '07)		4 Yr. Δ ('09 vs. '05)	
	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank
Alabama	28.2	37	28.9	35	22.3	45	-0.7	33	5.9	1
Alaska	27.2	42	28.7	36	26.7	37	-1.5	36	0.5	35
Arizona	24.7	45	24.2	46	23.6	43	0.5	20	1.1	32
Arkansas	28.8	36	28.6	37	29.7	31	0.2	23	-0.9	44
California	23.7	47	22.9	48	21.4	46	0.8	18	2.3	23
Colorado	40.2	5	36.2	13	36.6	8	4.0	2	3.6	8
Connecticut	42.4	2	41.2	3	38.3	4	1.2	12	4.1	7
Delaware	35.1	18	33.8	25	34.2	16	1.3	11	0.9	33
District of Columbia	16.8	51	13.8	51	11.2	51	3.0	5	5.6	4
Florida	35.8	13	34.0	23	30.1	30	1.8	9	5.7	3
Georgia	29.3	35	28.3	38	26.3	39	1.0	15	3.0	13
Hawaii	25.7	43	25.7	44	23.4	44	0.0	27	2.3	23
Idaho	32.3	29	35.1	21	32.9	22	-2.8	43	-0.6	40
Illinois	32.3	29	32.2	30	29.4	33	0.1	26	2.9	16
Indiana	33.7	24	33.0	28	30.3	29	0.7	19	3.4	12
Iowa	34.2	23	36.1	14	33.0	21	-1.9	37	1.2	31
Kansas	35.1	18	36.1	14	32.5	25	-1.0	35	2.6	21
Kentucky	36.2	11	33.5	27	30.8	28	2.7	7	5.4	5
Louisiana	18.3	50	20.4	49	20.4	49	-2.1	40	-2.1	50
Maine	35.5	17	35.8	18	35.2	13	-0.3	29	0.3	36
Maryland	37.1	9	35.9	17	32.3	26	1.2	12	4.8	6
Massachusetts	47.2	1	49.2	1	43.7	1	-2.0	39	3.5	9
Michigan	29.7	34	32.4	29	31.7	27	-2.7	42	-2.0	48
Minnesota	37.2	8	36.9	9	38.0	5	0.3	22	-0.8	43
Mississippi	21.7	48	18.7	50	18.2	50	3.0	5	3.5	9
Missouri	35.7	14	31.8	31	32.7	24	3.9	3	3.0	13
Montana	34.6	22	38.5	7	35.6	10	-3.9	50	-1.0	45
Nebraska	34.8	20	34.6	22	33.5	18	0.2	23	1.3	28
Nevada	24.0	46	24.4	45	20.5	47	-0.4	30	3.5	9
New Hampshire	41.3	4	41.1	4	38.6	2	0.2	23	2.7	19
New Jersey	40.2	5	43.1	2	37.2	6	-2.9	45	3.0	13
New Mexico	19.8	49	24.0	47	20.5	47	-4.2	51	-0.7	41
New York	36.0	12	36.0	16	33.3	19	0.0	27	2.7	19
North Carolina	32.2	31	29.1	34	29.3	35	3.1	4	2.9	16
North Dakota	34.8	20	35.3	20	35.5	11	-0.5	31	-0.7	41
Ohio	35.7	14	36.3	11	34.4	15	-0.6	32	1.3	28
Oklahoma	27.7	39	26.8	42	25.1	42	0.9	16	2.6	21
Oregon	30.9	33	28.3	38	29.4	33	2.6	8	1.5	27
Pennsylvania	36.6	10	40.2	6	35.9	9	-3.6	48	0.7	34
Rhode Island	35.6	16	30.8	32	29.7	31	4.8	1	5.9	1
South Carolina	27.6	41	25.8	43	25.6	40	1.8	9	2.0	25
South Dakota	32.8	26	33.7	26	32.9	22	-0.9	34	-0.1	38
Tennessee	28.0	38	26.9	41	26.7	37	1.1	14	1.3	28
Texas	27.7	39	29.6	33	29.0	36	-1.9	37	-1.3	46
Utah	31.0	32	33.9	24	34.1	17	-2.9	45	-3.1	51
Vermont	41.4	3	40.9	5	38.5	3	0.5	20	2.9	16
Virginia	38.5	7	37.6	8	36.9	7	0.9	16	1.6	26
Washington	33.5	25	36.3	11	35.5	11	-2.8	43	-2.0	48
West Virginia	25.7	43	27.8	40	25.6	40	-2.1	40	0.1	37
Wisconsin	32.7	27	35.6	19	33.1	20	-2.9	45	-0.4	39
Wyoming	32.6	28	36.4	10	34.5	14	-3.8	49	-1.9	47

GRADE 8 - PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT ON NAEP READING EXAM

State	2009		2007		2005		2 Yr. Δ ('09 vs. '07)		4 Yr. Δ ('09 vs. '05)	
	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank	% Prof.	Rank
Alabama	23.8	43	21.2	46	21.9	44	2.6	9	1.9	17
Alaska	27.0	37	27.1	36	26.4	34	-0.1	37	0.6	32
Arizona	26.9	38	24.3	42	23.1	42	2.6	9	3.8	6
Arkansas	26.7	40	25.4	40	25.9	37	1.3	22	0.8	29
California	22.2	46	21.5	44	20.5	46	0.7	31	1.7	20
Colorado	32.4	26	34.6	15	31.9	23	-2.2	48	0.5	34
Connecticut	42.5	2	37.1	6	33.6	19	5.4	2	8.9	1
Delaware	30.6	31	30.5	27	30.3	27	0.1	35	0.3	38
District of Columbia	13.7	51	12.1	51	11.7	51	1.6	20	2.0	14
Florida	31.8	30	28.0	31	25.1	39	3.8	4	6.7	2
Georgia	26.9	38	25.6	38	24.9	40	1.3	22	2.0	14
Hawaii	22.0	47	20.3	47	18.3	50	1.7	19	3.7	7
Idaho	32.8	24	31.6	24	32.2	22	1.2	24	0.6	32
Illinois	32.7	25	29.8	29	31.0	24	2.9	7	1.7	20
Indiana	32.1	29	31.1	25	28.4	32	1.0	27	3.7	7
Iowa	32.2	27	35.7	12	33.8	18	-3.5	51	-1.6	46
Kansas	33.0	22	35.2	13	34.8	15	-2.2	48	-1.8	47
Kentucky	33.3	19	27.7	33	30.6	26	5.6	1	2.7	12
Louisiana	20.4	49	19.4	48	19.9	47	1.0	27	0.5	34
Maine	34.6	13	36.9	7	38.0	2	-2.3	50	-3.4	50
Maryland	35.6	12	33.2	19	29.9	28	2.4	12	5.7	3
Massachusetts	42.9	1	43.0	1	44.0	1	-0.1	37	-1.1	44
Michigan	30.5	32	28.2	30	28.5	31	2.3	13	2.0	14
Minnesota	38.4	7	36.6	9	37.2	6	1.8	18	1.2	25
Mississippi	19.3	50	17.4	49	18.5	49	1.9	16	0.8	29
Missouri	34.3	16	31.0	26	30.9	25	3.3	6	3.4	11
Montana	37.7	8	38.9	4	36.7	7	-1.2	46	1.0	27
Nebraska	34.6	13	35.0	14	34.5	16	-0.4	40	0.1	39
Nevada	22.4	44	21.5	44	22.4	43	0.9	29	0.0	40
New Hampshire	39.4	6	37.2	5	37.9	3	2.2	15	1.5	23
New Jersey	41.6	3	39.0	3	37.7	4	2.6	9	3.9	5
New Mexico	21.7	48	17.3	50	19.2	48	4.4	3	2.5	13
New York	33.3	19	32.2	22	33.5	20	1.1	26	-0.2	41
North Carolina	28.7	33	28.0	31	26.9	33	0.7	31	1.8	18
North Dakota	34.1	17	32.2	22	36.5	8	1.9	16	-2.4	49
Ohio	36.7	10	35.9	11	35.5	12	0.8	30	1.2	25
Oklahoma	25.7	41	26.1	37	25.3	38	-0.4	40	0.4	37
Oregon	33.3	19	34.0	17	32.6	21	-0.7	44	0.7	31
Pennsylvania	40.1	5	36.4	10	36.0	9	3.7	5	4.1	4
Rhode Island	27.6	35	27.2	35	29.4	29	0.4	34	-1.8	47
South Carolina	24.5	42	24.6	41	24.7	41	-0.1	37	-0.2	41
South Dakota	36.9	9	36.8	8	35.1	13	0.1	35	1.8	18
Tennessee	27.9	34	25.6	38	26.2	35	2.3	13	1.7	20
Texas	27.1	36	27.5	34	26.1	36	-0.4	40	1.0	27
Utah	32.9	23	30.1	28	29.3	30	2.8	8	3.6	9
Vermont	41.0	4	42.1	2	37.4	5	-1.1	45	3.6	9
Virginia	32.2	27	33.7	18	35.7	10	-1.5	47	-3.5	51
Washington	35.7	11	34.1	16	34.3	17	1.6	20	1.4	24
West Virginia	22.4	44	22.9	43	21.9	44	-0.5	43	0.5	34
Wisconsin	33.9	18	33.2	19	34.9	14	0.7	31	-1.0	43
Wyoming	34.4	15	33.2	19	35.7	10	1.2	24	-1.3	45

GRADE 4 - RACIAL ACHIEVEMENT GAPS ON THE 2009 NAEP READING EXAM

State	2009											
	White	Black				Hispanic						
	% Prof.	% Prof.	Rank % Prof.	Gap vs. White	Rank Largest	% Prof.	Rank % Prof.	Gap vs. White	Rank Largest			
Alabama	36.3	13.1	33	-23.2	28	18.0	22	-18.3	31			
Alaska	38.4	12.9	35	-25.5	20	26.5	7	-11.9	43			
Arizona	37.4	20.4	8	-17.0	42	14.0	40	-23.4	15			
Arkansas	35.5	13.8	30	-21.7	32	15.9	32	-19.6	29			
California	38.6	13.8	30	-24.8	23	10.6	46	-28.0	10			
Colorado	51.3	27.0	3	-24.3	24	18.0	22	-33.3	4			
Connecticut	52.2	21.6	6	-30.6	7	15.0	35	-37.2	2			
Delaware	46.6	19.2	11	-27.4	13	23.8	11	-22.8	17			
District of Columbia	74.6	10.8	41	-63.8	1	17.3	26	-57.3	1			
Florida	44.9	18.3	16	-26.6	16	31.5	1	-13.4	40			
Georgia	40.5	15.1	25	-25.4	22	19.8	17	-20.7	25			
Hawaii	41.8	18.1	17	-23.7	26	26.9	6	-14.9	38			
Idaho	35.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.1	38	-21.7	21			
Illinois	43.8	11.4	40	-32.4	3	15.6	34	-28.2	9			
Indiana	38.2	15.4	24	-22.8	29	15.0	35	-23.2	16			
Iowa	36.1	22.2	5	-13.9	43	19.8	17	-16.3	36			
Kansas	40.1	19.5	10	-20.6	36	19.9	16	-20.2	26			
Kentucky	39.1	13.1	33	-26.0	19	21.5	14	-17.6	33			
Louisiana	27.9	9.2	44	-18.7	39	16.1	31	-11.8	44			
Maine	36.1	17.6	19	-18.5	40	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Maryland	49.7	18.6	13	-31.1	6	30.2	2	-19.5	30			
Massachusetts	55.7	22.7	4	-33.0	2	20.4	15	-35.3	3			
Michigan	35.7	8.7	46	-27.0	14	17.4	25	-18.3	31			
Minnesota	43.3	11.6	38	-31.7	5	12.8	44	-30.5	6			
Mississippi	35.3	9.8	43	-25.5	21	18.8	21	-16.5	35			
Missouri	39.8	16.0	22	-23.8	25	25.8	10	-14.0	39			
Montana	37.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	26.3	8	-11.2	46			
Nebraska	39.7	18.7	12	-21.0	35	19.7	19	-20.0	28			
Nevada	33.5	14.3	29	-19.2	37	13.3	43	-20.2	26			
New Hampshire	42.0	28.5	2	-13.5	44	30.0	3	-12.0	42			
New Jersey	50.6	18.4	14	-32.2	4	19.1	20	-31.5	5			
New Mexico	34.6	13.5	32	-21.1	34	13.5	42	-21.1	24			
New York	44.8	18.4	14	-26.4	18	22.2	13	-22.6	18			
North Carolina	44.2	14.4	28	-29.8	8	17.0	27	-27.2	11			
North Dakota	37.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Ohio	42.0	12.9	35	-29.1	11	29.8	4	-12.2	41			
Oklahoma	32.6	10.6	42	-22.0	30	17.0	27	-15.6	37			
Oregon	35.2	17.4	20	-17.8	41	12.6	45	-22.6	18			
Pennsylvania	42.5	14.5	26	-28.0	12	14.2	37	-28.3	8			
Rhode Island	44.1	17.4	20	-26.7	15	14.1	38	-30.0	7			
South Carolina	38.1	11.5	39	-26.6	16	16.8	29	-21.3	22			
South Dakota	36.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	29.1	5	-7.5	47			
Tennessee	33.9	12.1	37	-21.8	31	16.4	30	-17.5	34			
Texas	43.3	19.7	9	-23.6	27	17.6	24	-25.7	14			
Utah	35.8	14.5	26	-21.3	33	9.8	47	-26.0	13			
Vermont	41.6	28.7	1	-12.9	45	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Virginia	47.4	17.7	18	-29.7	9	26.2	9	-21.2	23			
Washington	40.1	21.1	7	-19.0	38	13.7	41	-26.4	12			
West Virginia	26.4	15.6	23	-10.8	46	NA	NA	NA	NA			
Wisconsin	38.3	9.1	45	-29.2	10	15.8	33	-22.5	20			
Wyoming	34.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.3	12	-11.8	44			

GRADE 8 - RACIAL ACHIEVEMENT GAPS ON THE 2009 NAEP READING EXAM

State	2009								
	White	Black				Hispanic			
	% Prof.	% Prof.	Rank % Prof.	Gap vs. White	Rank Largest	% Prof.	Rank % Prof.	Gap vs. White	Rank Largest
Alabama	31.5	8.9	39	-22.6	29	23.1	10	-8.4	40
Alaska	36.1	12.2	24	-23.9	25	25.3	6	-10.8	38
Arizona	38.5	21.1	2	-17.4	37	15.0	33	-23.5	17
Arkansas	33.3	7.7	42	-25.6	18	18.6	21	-14.7	31
California	36.8	11.3	28	-25.5	19	12.7	40	-24.1	12
Colorado	41.2	14.9	15	-26.3	16	16.0	28	-25.2	8
Connecticut	51.3	11.3	28	-40.0	1	18.8	19	-32.5	2
Delaware	40.9	16.0	8	-24.9	20	21.0	13	-19.9	24
District of Columbia	NA	10.1	32	NA	NA	20.8	14	NA	NA
Florida	40.1	15.3	13	-24.8	21	26.6	4	-13.5	32
Georgia	35.2	15.4	12	-19.8	35	19.9	16	-15.3	29
Hawaii	35.3	20.3	3	-15.0	38	24.0	9	-11.3	37
Idaho	36.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	11.3	42	-25.3	7
Illinois	42.3	10.2	31	-32.1	5	18.4	22	-23.9	13
Indiana	36.1	14.7	16	-21.4	32	14.9	34	-21.2	22
Iowa	34.5	11.8	27	-22.7	28	18.0	23	-16.5	28
Kansas	38.6	13.9	17	-24.7	23	15.9	29	-22.7	21
Kentucky	35.2	15.1	14	-20.1	34	30.4	1	-4.8	41
Louisiana	27.9	9.6	36	-18.3	36	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maine	34.9	21.7	1	-13.2	40	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maryland	48.3	15.9	9	-32.4	4	25.3	6	-23.0	18
Massachusetts	48.7	17.1	6	-31.6	6	16.8	24	-31.9	3
Michigan	35.5	9.0	38	-26.5	14	26.0	5	-9.5	39
Minnesota	43.6	9.8	35	-33.8	2	15.6	30	-28.0	6
Mississippi	30.8	8.0	41	-22.8	27	NA	NA	NA	NA
Missouri	37.7	13.5	18	-24.2	24	25.0	8	-12.7	35
Montana	39.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nebraska	39.0	12.1	26	-26.9	13	18.7	20	-20.3	23
Nevada	31.4	10.0	34	-21.4	32	13.5	38	-17.9	26
New Hampshire	39.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	27.4	3	-12.5	36
New Jersey	50.8	17.3	5	-33.5	3	19.9	16	-30.9	4
New Mexico	38.1	15.8	10	-22.3	31	14.3	35	-23.8	14
New York	44.1	13.4	20	-30.7	7	15.6	30	-28.5	5
North Carolina	38.7	12.2	24	-26.5	14	19.2	18	-19.5	25
North Dakota	35.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ohio	41.5	13.1	21	-28.4	12	16.5	27	-25.0	10
Oklahoma	29.2	15.6	11	-13.6	39	14.0	36	-15.2	30
Oregon	36.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.9	37	-23.0	18
Pennsylvania	45.7	16.5	7	-29.2	9	12.0	41	-33.7	1
Rhode Island	33.6	8.8	40	-24.8	21	10.7	43	-22.9	20
South Carolina	33.9	10.1	32	-23.8	26	29.7	2	-4.2	42
South Dakota	40.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tennessee	33.8	11.2	30	-22.6	29	20.8	14	-13.0	34
Texas	42.0	13.1	21	-28.9	10	16.8	24	-25.2	8
Utah	36.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.1	39	-23.6	15
Vermont	40.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Virginia	39.7	13.5	18	-26.2	17	22.0	12	-17.7	27
Washington	41.5	12.6	23	-28.9	10	16.6	26	-24.9	11
West Virginia	22.5	18.1	4	-4.4	41	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	38.7	9.1	37	-29.6	8	15.1	32	-23.6	15
Wyoming	35.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.5	11	-13.3	33