

# News Release

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## Nation’s Report Card shows state science scores largely unchanged

MADISON — Wisconsin students outperformed the nation in both assessed grades on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science assessment.

Average scale scores for Wisconsin public school students in grade eight and grade four were not statistically different from the last administration of the exam. Small improvements in scale scores of Wisconsin takers across subgroups were seen but the results must be viewed with caution due to the fact that the NAEP uses samples of students and is not a census exam.

When looking at performance for subgroups of Wisconsin students, a number outperform the national averages in grades eight and four. Those include English-language learners (EL) in both grades, males and females in both grades, non-disabled students in both grades, and non-EL students in grade eight. Wisconsin student results showed no statistical difference from other groups of takers nationally when comparing American Indian or Alaska Native students in grade four, Asian students in grade

eight, Hispanic students in both grades, white students in both grades, students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals in both grades, and students with disabilities in both grades. Students nationally outperformed Wisconsin when compared across subgroups of black students in both grades and Asian students in grade four.

The NAEP science assessment was administered between January and March of 2015 to approximately 2,500 fourth-graders and 2,300 eighth-graders in Wisconsin public schools. Nationally, approximately 110,800 fourth-graders and 107,200 eighth-graders took the test. The most recent administration of NAEP science in 2011 was only given to eighth-grade students. The science exam is broken into three content areas that assess knowledge and skills in physical science, Earth and space sciences, and life science. Because the exam is administered to a sample of students, no results are available for individual schools or districts.

Year	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
2009	157*	149	157*	149
2011	-	-	159*	151
2015	156*	153^	159*	153^

\*Indicates statistically higher score (p<.05) when comparing State and Nation within same year/grade.  
 ^Indicates statistically significant growth across years within the same jurisdiction (State or Nation).

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**NOTES:** A table of results disaggregated across subgroups for the 2009, 2011, and 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress in science follows. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016\\_108.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_108.pdf).

# NAEP Science Results

Average Scale Scores for Public School Participants

Subgroup	Year	Grade 4		Grade 8	
		State	Nation	State	Nation
Overall	2009	157*	149	157*	149
	2011			159*	151
	2015	156*	153^	159*	153^
African American or Black	2009	121	127*	120	125*
	2011			121	128*
	2015	119	132*^	120	131*^
American Indian or Alaska Native	2009	145	137	‡	138
	2011			‡	141
	2015	144	141^	‡	140
Asian or Pacific Islander	2009	153	160	152	159
	2011			149	159
	2015	156	166*^	161	163^
Asian**	2011			149	160*
	2015	157	168*	162	165
Hispanic	2009	138*	130	134	131
	2011			140	136
	2015	140	138^	139	139^
White	2009	164*	162	165*	161
	2011			166*	163
	2015	165	165^	166	165^
Eligible for free or reduced lunch	2009	141*	134	139*	133
	2011			143*	137
	2015	141	140^	142	140^
Not eligible for free or reduced lunch	2009	166*	163	166*	161
	2011			167*	164
	2015	169	169^	168	167^
Students with disabilities	2009	134*	129	130*	122
	2011			131*	124
	2015	134	131	128	124^
Students without disabilities	2009	160*	151	161*	152
	2011			163*	154
	2015	159*	156^	163*	157^
English language learners	2009	131*	114	128*	103
	2011			121*	106
	2015	133*	121^	121*	110^
Non-English language learners	2009	158*	153	159*	151
	2011			161*	153
	2015	158	157^	160*	156^
Females	2009	156*	148	155*	147
	2011			156*	148
	2015	157*	153^	157*	151^
Males	2009	157*	149	160*	151
	2011			162*	153
	2015	156*	153^	161*	154^

NOTES: The 2011 NAEP Science Assessment was only administered to eighth-grade students.

‡ Sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

\*\* New reporting category

\*Indicates statistically higher score ( $p < .05$ ) when comparing State and Nation within same year and grade

^Indicates statistically significant growth across years within the same jurisdiction (State or Nation).