



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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**\*\*NOTE TO EDITORS/REPORTERS: NAEP SCORES ARE NOT REPORTED FOR DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS OR STUDENTS EXCEPT JEFFERSON CO., WHICH IS ONE OF 27 TRIAL URBAN DISTRICT ASSESSMENT PARTICIPANTS AND RECEIVES DISTRICT LEVEL SCORES THAT MUST BE OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM THE DISTRICT.\*\***

## KENTUCKY PERFORMANCE FLAT ON NATIONAL READING AND MATH TESTS; ON PAR WITH REST OF NATION

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Kentucky's public school students' performance in reading and mathematics on the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card, remained relatively flat, according to results released today, though Kentucky students scored about the same as those in most other states.

Kentucky performance was strongest in 4th-grade reading, where students outscored their counterparts across the country and weakest in 8th grade mathematics.

### 2017 NAEP SCALE SCORES – KENTUCKY COMPARED TO OTHER STATES/JURISDICTIONS

Grade/Subject	States/Jurisdictions Scoring Lower than Kentucky	States/Jurisdictions Scoring Higher than Kentucky	States/Jurisdictions Scoring About the Same as Kentucky
4th-grade reading	21	6	24
8th-grade reading	14	17	20
4th-grade mathematics	17	13	22
8th-grade mathematics	9	31	12

Student performance on NAEP fits into one of four categories: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient or Advanced.

In Kentucky, in reading, 70 percent of 4th graders and 75 percent of 8th graders scored at the Basic level or above. In mathematics, 80 percent of 4th graders and 65 percent of 8th graders scored at the Basic level or above.

### 2017 NAEP ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL PERCENTAGES

Grade/Subject	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
4th-grade reading	30	32	28	10
8th-grade reading	25	41	30	4
4th-grade mathematics	20	40	33	7
8th-grade mathematics	35	37	22	7

*NOTE: The Basic level signifies partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work in a grade and subject. Proficient denotes solid academic performance demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills. Advanced represents superior performance beyond proficiency. Proficient is not the same as being "on grade level," which refers to student performance based on local standards and curriculum that can vary among school districts.*

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“Clearly we have some work to do to ensure every student is achieving at high levels in reading and mathematics, so they are transition ready throughout their school career and graduate from high school with the opportunity to succeed in whatever endeavor they undertake,” Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt said. “When we look at a break down in scores by gender, free/reduced-price meal eligibility and ethnicity, we see the need for improvements in closing the achievement gap. We have to find a way to consistently close the achievement gap and any learning opportunity gaps that may exist by increasing the achievement levels for all students.”

Commissioner Pruitt already has outlined five priorities – including a renewed focus on K-3 literacy and individual instruction and assessment – that are designed to boost achievement for all students and cut the gap in half over the next 13 years.

The NAEP reading assessment tests students on literary and informational texts. The questions measure students’ ability to locate and recall, integrate and interpret, and critique and evaluate.

In 2017, the average reading scale score for 4th-grade students in Kentucky was 224 – slightly lower than that in 2015 (228), yet higher than for students across the nation (221). The average reading scale score for 8th-grade students in Kentucky was 265 – unchanged from 2015 and the same as the average for students nationwide.

**NAEP READING SCALE SCORES – TRENDS SINCE 1998**

	<b>Kentucky 4th-Grade Scale Score</b>	<b>National Average 4th-Grade Scale Score</b>	<b>Kentucky 8th-Grade Scale Score</b>	<b>National Average 8th-Grade Scale Score</b>
1998	218	213	262	261
2002	219	217	265	263
2003	219	216	266	261
2005	220	217	264	260
2007	222	220	262	261
2009	226	220	267	262
2011	225	220	269	264
2013	224	221	270	266
2015	228	221	268	264
<b>2017</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>265</b>

The mathematics assessment addresses five content areas: number properties and operations; measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics, and probability; and algebra.

In 4th-grade mathematics, the average scale score for Kentucky students was 239 – the same as for students across the nation and not significantly different statistically from the 2015 score (242). In 8th-grade mathematics, the average scale score for Kentucky students in 2017 (278) remained unchanged from 2015 and though slightly lower than the average scale score for students in public schools across the nation in 2017 (282), was not significantly different statistically.

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**NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES – TRENDS SINCE 2000**

	<b>Kentucky 4th-Grade Scale Score</b>	<b>National Average 4th-Grade Scale Score</b>	<b>Kentucky 8th-Grade Scale Score</b>	<b>National Average 8th-Grade Scale Score</b>
2000	219	224	270	272
2003	229	234	274	276
2005	231	237	274	278
2007	235	239	279	280
2009	239	239	279	282
2011	241	240	282	283
2013	241	241	281	284
2015	242	240	278	281
<b>2017</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>282</b>

In 2017, for the first time, NAEP administered a digitally based assessment (DBA) instead of a paper-based assessment, which some say may have impacted student performance.

“Our students, and those in a handful of other states that still give paper and pencil state tests seemed to be at a disadvantage with the new online NAEP assessments,” Pruitt said. “It is an entirely different experience taking a test on a tablet than with the paper and pencil our kids are used to. Going digital seemed to have an impact on results especially in reading.”

Kentucky will be transitioning to digitally based assessments at the elementary and middle school levels in future state assessments.

“Honestly, looking at the ups and downs over a two-year period doesn’t tell us much,” Pruitt said. “It is the long-term changes that are much more meaningful. If you look at that, Kentucky students have made tremendous progress.”

Since 1998, Kentucky’s 4th graders have gained 6 points on the NAEP reading assessment, and 8th graders have gained 3 points.

Since 2000, Kentucky’s 4th graders have gained 20 points, and 8th graders have gained 8 points on the mathematics assessment.

Additionally, in recent years, the state’s exclusion rates – the percentage of students with disabilities and English Language Learners excluded from taking the test – dropped. These students typically do not score as high as their peers.

**PERCENTAGE OF KENTUCKY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS EXCLUDED FROM TAKING THE NAEP ASSESSMENT**

<b>Grade/Subject</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>4th-grade Reading</b>	9	3	5	3
<b>8th-grade reading</b>	7	3	3	2
<b>4th-grade mathematics</b>	3	1	2	2
<b>8th-grade mathematics</b>	3	2	1	1

NAEP is given to a representative, random sampling of students in 4th and 8th grades across the country. In Kentucky, about 2 percent of students (12,400) representing 63 percent of districts (111) participated in the 2017 assessments.

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NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers and schools that participate by not reporting individual student, teacher or school data. However, NAEP does provide results for major demographic groups. The data shows performance gaps persist at both the state and national levels.

**NAEP READING SCALE SCORES BY GENDER**

	4th-Grade Male KY	4th-Grade Male NATION	4th-Grade Female KY	4th-Grade Female NATION	8th-Grade Male KY	8th-Grade Male NATION	8th-Grade Female KY	8th-Grade Female NATION
1998	216	210	219	215	256	253	269	268
2002	215	214	224	220	261	258	270	267
2003	215	213	223	220	261	256	272	267
2005	218	214	222	220	258	255	270	266
2007	219	216	226	223	257	256	266	266
2009	222	216	229	223	263	258	271	267
2011	223	217	227	223	264	259	274	268
2013	221	217	228	224	266	261	273	271
2015	226	218	230	225	263	259	273	269
<b>2017</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>270</b>

**NAEP READING SCALE SCORES BY FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY**

	4th Grade Eligible KY	4th Grade Eligible NATION	4th Grade Not Eligible KY	4th Grade Not Eligible NATION	8th Grade Eligible KY	8th Grade Eligible NATION	8th Grade Not Eligible KY	8th Grade Not Eligible NATION
1998	206	195	227	226	251	245	270	268
2002	209	202	229	229	253	249	273	271
2003	209	201	229	229	257	246	273	271
2005	212	203	228	230	256	247	271	270
2007	212	205	234	232	252	247	271	271
2009	215	206	236	232	257	249	276	273
2011	216	207	236	234	260	251	278	275
2013	213	207	237	236	258	254	281	278
2015	219	209	241	237	259	253	279	276
<b>2017</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>277</b>

**NAEP READING SCALE SCORES BY RACE**

	4th Grade White KY	4th Grade White NATION	4th Grade African American KY	4th Grade African American NATION	8th Grade White KY	8th Grade White NATION	8th Grade African American KY	8th Grade African American NATION
1998	220	223	199	192	264	268	246	242
2002	222	227	199	198	267	271	248	244
2003	221	227	202	197	269	270	245	244
2005	222	228	203	199	266	269	248	242
2007	225	230	203	203	264	270	247	244
2009	228	229	204	204	269	271	249	245
2011	226	230	210	205	271	272	248	248
2013	227	231	204	205	272	275	247	250
2015	231	232	212	206	271	273	247	247
<b>2017</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>248</b>

(more)

**NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES BY GENDER**

	4th Grade Male KY	4th Grade Male NATION	4th Grade Female KY	4th Grade Female NATION	8th Grade Male KY	8th Grade Male NATION	8th Grade Female KY	8th Grade Female NATION
2000	220	225	219	223	271	273	269	271
2003	230	235	227	233	275	277	274	275
2005	233	238	230	236	275	278	273	277
2007	237	240	234	238	280	281	277	279
2009	240	240	238	238	281	283	278	281
2011	242	241	240	239	282	283	281	282
2013	242	242	241	241	281	284	280	283
2015	243	241	240	239	277	281	279	281
<b>2017</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>282</b>

**NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES BY FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY**

	4th Grade Eligible KY	4th Grade Eligible NATION	4th Grade Not Eligible KY	4th Grade Not Eligible NATION	8th Grade Eligible KY	8th Grade Eligible NATION	8th Grade Not Eligible KY	8th Grade Not Eligible NATION
2000	207	208	230	235	255	253	280	283
2003	220	222	237	244	261	258	284	287
2005	224	225	240	248	264	261	283	288
2007	226	227	245	249	267	265	288	291
2009	229	228	249	250	268	266	290	293
2011	232	229	251	252	271	269	294	295
2013	232	230	251	254	268	270	293	297
2015	234	229	255	253	268	268	291	296
<b>2017</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>297</b>

**NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES BY RACE**

	4th Grade White KY	4th Grade White NATION	4th Grade African American KY	4th Grade African American NATION	8th Grade White KY	8th Grade White NATION	8th Grade African American KY	8th Grade African American NATION
2000	223	233	196	203	272	283	250	243
2003	231	243	214	216	277	287	250	252
2005	234	246	217	220	276	288	255	254
2007	238	248	219	222	282	290	257	259
2009	241	248	220	222	282	292	258	260
2011	243	249	225	224	284	293	261	262
2013	244	250	224	224	283	293	260	263
2015	244	248	226	224	281	291	257	260
<b>2017</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>260</b>

For more than 40 years, NAEP has been the country's only nationally representative and continuing survey of students' educational achievement. The assessment is authorized by Congress, directed by the National Center for Education Statistics and developed by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. Westat, Inc. of Rockville, Maryland, conducts sample selection and data collection.

More information is available from <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

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