

2013 Nation's Report Card Reading Results for 4th and 8th Grade

The 2013 Reading results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) were released today and showed little to no progress for students in 4th and 8th grade. Math results were released in the fall of 2013 and that analysis can also be found on our website.

The reading test was administered in early 2013 to 362,200 students in the 4th and 8th grade in public and private schools. The following charts compare charter school scores on a national level (keeping in mind the small selection of charter school students who took the test) with the national scores in 2013 and 2011. Highlights from the results are bulleted below.

35 percent of 4th grade students scored proficient or above in reading, one percentage point higher than in 2011.

36 percent of 8th grade students scored proficient or above in reading, two percentage points higher than in 2011.

2013 National Results in Reading

	National Score	Charter School Score	Difference
4th Grade	222	218	+4
8th Grade	268	264	+4

2011 National Results in Reading

	National Score	Charter School Score	Difference
4th Grade	221	218	+3
8th Grade	265	261	+4

Highlights from 2013 NAEP Reading Results

- The 4th grade overall reading score increased by one point, and the 8th grade score increased by three points since 2011.
- In 4th and 8th grade, the achievement gap between black and white students increased by one point, from 25 to 26 total points.
- The reading gap between Hispanics and whites is the smallest it's ever been for 8th graders, but it is still large at 21 points.
- Since 2007, 8th grade reading scores have only increased by five points.
- While all racial/ ethnic subgroups increased the number of students proficient in reading, less than 20 percent of black students were proficient in both grades.

States of Interest

- Fifteen states had higher percentages of students at or above proficiency than the national average, and 14 states had lower proficiency percentages.
- State percentages ranged from 17 to 48 percent proficiency.
- In 4th grade reading, eight states increased their scores significantly and four states' scores decreased significantly since 2011.
- Massachusetts, a state known for high test scores and standards, lost four points on their 4th grade tests since 2011, from 237 to 232, although still much higher than the national average.
- Washington, DC's scores improved from 201 to 206 in 4th grade, and from 242 to 248 in 8th grade, far below the national averages of 220 and 266, respectively. However, DC has made gains in reading of five points in 4th grade reading and six points in 8th grade, and is continuing to slowly improve.