

Table 115.—Average proficiency in reading for 8th-graders in public schools, by selected characteristics, and state: 1998

State	Average	Location			Parental education ¹			
		Central city	Urban fringe/large town	Rural/small town	Did not finish high school	Graduated high school	Some education after high school	Graduated college
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
United States²	261 (0.8)	254 (1.7)	266 (1.4)	263 (1.5)	242 (1.9)	253 (1.3)	268 (1.4)	272 (1.0)
Alabama	255 (1.4)	254 (3.4)	260 (2.3)	254 (1.9)	252 (2.9)	246 (1.6)	262 (2.0)	264 (2.0)
Arizona	261 (1.2)	261 (1.7)	267 (2.3)	250 (2.5)	243 (2.3)	253 (2.5)	267 (1.5)	272 (1.4)
Arkansas	256 (1.3)	253 (3.1)	262 (2.9)	255 (1.6)	243 (3.1)	249 (1.9)	265 (2.4)	264 (1.7)
California ³	253 (1.7)	249 (2.5)	255 (2.3)	(4)(4)	238 (3.1)	244 (2.2)	264 (2.3)	266 (1.8)
Colorado	264 (1.1)	258 (2.6)	268 (1.2)	264 (2.1)	240 (4.7)	251 (2.1)	266 (1.8)	274 (1.2)
Connecticut	272 (1.1)	252 (2.9)	275 (1.4)	280 (1.7)	251 (3.0)	256 (1.7)	274 (1.5)	282 (1.0)
Delaware	256 (1.3)	254 (2.7)	256 (2.3)	258 (2.5)	234 (8.2)	251 (2.5)	257 (2.4)	266 (1.7)
District of Columbia	236 (2.0)	236 (2.0)	(4)(4)	(4)(4)	235 (5.1)	227 (3.9)	242 (3.1)	248 (3.3)
Florida	253 (1.7)	252 (2.5)	256 (2.0)	247 (7.4)	245 (3.1)	244 (2.5)	262 (1.8)	261 (2.0)
Georgia	257 (1.4)	245 (3.1)	263 (1.8)	254 (2.5)	242 (2.9)	247 (2.2)	264 (1.7)	267 (1.9)
Hawaii	250 (1.3)	253 (2.6)	250 (1.5)	247 (2.0)	230 (5.1)	241 (2.3)	258 (2.1)	259 (1.5)
Kansas ³	268 (1.2)	260 (3.7)	273 (1.9)	269 (1.6)	249 (6.3)	261 (2.1)	269 (1.9)	276 (1.8)
Kentucky	262 (1.3)	261 (4.7)	266 (2.4)	261 (1.3)	246 (3.1)	256 (1.6)	268 (1.9)	274 (2.0)
Louisiana	252 (1.5)	247 (3.3)	253 (2.8)	255 (1.7)	247 (4.1)	245 (1.4)	261 (1.5)	258 (2.2)
Maine	273 (1.2)	279 (3.0)	272 (3.8)	272 (1.3)	262 (4.8)	260 (2.1)	275 (2.0)	282 (1.4)
Maryland ³	262 (1.8)	246 (4.3)	264 (2.3)	268 (2.3)	253 (3.5)	250 (2.0)	262 (2.3)	272 (2.2)
Massachusetts	269 (1.6)	254 (3.3)	275 (2.4)	274 (2.4)	242 (4.3)	256 (2.1)	273 (2.4)	278 (1.7)
Minnesota ³	267 (1.3)	249 (5.2)	273 (1.4)	266 (2.3)	244 (4.9)	256 (2.2)	273 (1.9)	276 (1.4)
Mississippi	251 (1.4)	243 (4.8)	255 (2.1)	250 (1.8)	239 (2.5)	243 (2.5)	257 (2.8)	259 (1.6)
Missouri	263 (1.3)	257 (4.0)	263 (2.0)	266 (1.4)	247 (3.3)	257 (1.7)	268 (1.7)	271 (1.6)
Montana ³	270 (1.1)	263 (2.8)	266 (3.4)	273 (1.4)	253 (5.3)	258 (2.7)	273 (2.3)	277 (1.4)
Nevada	257 (1.1)	254 (1.7)	258 (2.5)	262 (2.1)	241 (3.5)	248 (1.8)	265 (1.9)	269 (1.5)
New Mexico	258 (1.2)	260 (2.7)	261 (1.6)	253 (1.7)	240 (3.0)	251 (1.7)	263 (2.6)	268 (1.4)
New York ³	266 (1.6)	254 (2.7)	278 (2.4)	271 (2.2)	252 (3.3)	256 (2.2)	270 (2.0)	277 (1.8)
North Carolina	264 (1.1)	267 (2.0)	263 (2.6)	261 (1.5)	246 (3.6)	250 (1.9)	268 (1.6)	273 (1.4)
Oklahoma	265 (1.3)	265 (2.0)	268 (2.1)	264 (1.7)	256 (3.4)	255 (1.8)	270 (2.2)	274 (1.4)
Oregon	266 (1.5)	264 (4.0)	269 (2.2)	263 (1.6)	241 (3.5)	259 (2.4)	266 (1.6)	276 (1.8)
Rhode Island	262 (1.0)	252 (2.7)	265 (1.8)	271 (3.0)	241 (4.7)	253 (3.0)	265 (2.4)	273 (1.5)
South Carolina	255 (1.3)	257 (2.2)	260 (1.9)	249 (2.2)	245 (2.9)	243 (1.6)	264 (2.0)	264 (1.6)
Tennessee	259 (1.3)	253 (2.2)	264 (2.4)	261 (1.8)	246 (3.7)	250 (1.5)	265 (1.7)	269 (1.8)
Texas	262 (1.5)	259 (2.5)	266 (2.2)	263 (3.5)	247 (2.4)	256 (1.7)	269 (1.9)	272 (1.7)
Utah	265 (1.1)	264 (1.8)	266 (1.3)	261 (3.1)	247 (5.1)	251 (2.3)	265 (2.0)	273 (0.9)
Virginia	266 (1.1)	260 (1.9)	274 (1.7)	263 (2.2)	248 (3.4)	254 (1.5)	269 (2.2)	277 (1.3)
Washington	265 (1.3)	264 (2.2)	266 (2.2)	263 (2.1)	243 (3.7)	258 (2.2)	268 (1.7)	274 (1.7)
West Virginia	262 (1.2)	265 (3.7)	264 (3.2)	260 (1.4)	248 (2.7)	254 (1.9)	265 (1.9)	272 (1.6)
Wisconsin ³	266 (1.6)	256 (3.1)	273 (2.5)	269 (1.9)	240 (4.4)	260 (2.4)	269 (2.1)	276 (1.9)
Wyoming	262 (1.3)	263 (3.0)	(4)(4)	262 (1.3)	256 (4.3)	256 (2.5)	266 (2.2)	267 (1.9)
Department of Defense Overseas Schools	269 (1.0)	(4)(4)	(4)(4)	(4)(4)	(4)(4)	258 (3.5)	272 (2.1)	275 (1.5)
Virgin Islands	233 (2.9)	(4)(4)	(4)(4)	233 (2.9)	237 (4.7)	234 (4.9)	242 (7.6)	232 (4.3)

¹ Parents' highest level of education. Data not shown for students who did not know parents' level of education.

² As measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Forty-four jurisdictions (state, territory, Dept. of Defense Overseas Schools) participated in 1998. Due to sample size and school participation guidelines, some states are not shown.

³ Did not satisfy one or more of the guidelines for school sample participation rates. Data are subject to appreciable nonresponse bias.

⁴ Sample size is insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

NOTE: These test scores are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP scores have been evaluated at certain performance levels. A score of 300 implies an ability to find, understand, summarize, and explain relatively com-

plicated literary and informational material. A score of 250 implies an ability to search for specific information, interrelate ideas, and make generalizations about literature, science, and social studies materials. A score of 200 implies an ability to understand, combine ideas, and make inferences based on short uncomplicated passages about specific or sequentially related information. A score of 150 implies an ability to follow brief written directions and carry out simple, discrete reading tasks. Scale ranges from 0 to 500. Excludes states not participating in the survey. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP 1994 and 1998 Reading Report Card for the Nation and the States*, prepared by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared July 2000.)