

Table 113.—Student proficiency in reading, by percentile and age: 1971 to 1996

Percentile	1971	1975	1980	1984	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9-year-olds ¹									
Average	207.6 (1.0)	210.0 (0.7)	215.0 (1.0)	210.9 (0.7)	211.8 (1.1)	209.2 (1.2)	210.5 (0.9)	211.0 (1.2)	212.4 (1.0)
Standard deviation	42.1 (0.4)	38.6 (0.3)	37.9 (0.4)	41.1 (0.4)	41.2 (1.0)	44.7 (0.8)	40.3 (0.6)	40.5 (0.8)	40.5 (0.8)
Percentiles									
5th	134.8 (2.0)	143.2 (1.3)	148.5 (1.6)	140.5 (1.2)	141.9 (3.6)	134.8 (3.2)	140.7 (1.6)	140.1 (2.6)	141.8 (2.8)
10th	151.6 (1.6)	159.2 (1.1)	165.1 (1.4)	156.7 (1.2)	156.7 (2.1)	150.1 (1.9)	156.0 (1.5)	155.6 (2.5)	157.6 (2.3)
25th	180.0 (1.3)	185.2 (0.8)	191.1 (1.2)	183.7 (1.2)	184.3 (1.8)	178.7 (1.8)	183.1 (1.5)	184.1 (1.9)	185.0 (1.3)
50th	209.3 (1.0)	211.9 (0.8)	217.2 (0.9)	212.6 (1.0)	213.7 (1.4)	210.3 (1.5)	213.6 (0.9)	214.8 (1.1)	215.5 (1.3)
75th	236.7 (1.0)	236.5 (0.9)	241.3 (1.0)	239.6 (0.9)	240.1 (1.3)	240.3 (1.8)	239.3 (1.2)	240.0 (1.5)	241.4 (1.1)
90th	260.5 (0.8)	258.1 (0.8)	261.7 (1.1)	262.8 (0.9)	263.0 (1.7)	265.7 (1.8)	259.9 (1.2)	260.1 (1.6)	261.5 (1.2)
95th	274.1 (0.9)	270.6 (0.1)	273.3 (1.6)	276.5 (1.4)	277.5 (2.0)	280.4 (1.3)	272.1 (1.2)	271.7 (1.5)	274.1 (1.2)
13-year-olds ¹									
Average	255.2 (0.9)	255.9 (0.8)	258.5 (0.9)	257.1 (0.6)	257.5 (1.0)	256.8 (0.8)	259.8 (1.2)	257.9 (0.9)	259.1 (0.9)
Standard deviation	35.7 (0.4)	35.8 (0.3)	34.9 (0.4)	35.5 (0.3)	34.7 (0.5)	36.0 (0.6)	39.4 (0.8)	39.8 (0.7)	38.4 (0.9)
Percentiles									
5th	192.8 (1.8)	193.5 (1.1)	199.1 (1.9)	196.7 (1.1)	199.5 (1.7)	195.7 (1.9)	190.9 (2.8)	188.2 (4.9)	191.5 (2.2)
10th	207.8 (1.4)	208.7 (1.0)	212.8 (1.5)	210.2 (0.9)	212.9 (1.2)	209.8 (1.8)	207.9 (1.9)	205.1 (1.7)	208.5 (2.2)
25th	232.3 (1.2)	232.9 (1.0)	235.3 (1.1)	233.9 (0.8)	234.2 (1.2)	233.2 (1.0)	234.7 (1.8)	232.5 (1.2)	234.8 (1.5)
50th	257.0 (1.0)	257.7 (0.9)	259.6 (0.8)	258.2 (0.8)	257.9 (1.1)	257.3 (0.9)	261.6 (1.6)	260.1 (1.1)	261.2 (0.7)
75th	279.9 (0.8)	280.6 (0.8)	282.8 (0.8)	281.6 (0.6)	281.4 (1.4)	281.5 (0.8)	287.0 (1.4)	285.2 (1.1)	285.5 (0.9)
90th	299.6 (0.9)	300.5 (1.0)	302.3 (0.8)	301.7 (0.8)	301.6 (1.0)	302.0 (1.0)	309.2 (1.8)	307.4 (1.4)	306.5 (1.4)
95th	310.8 (0.9)	311.8 (1.0)	313.9 (0.8)	313.7 (1.0)	313.7 (1.3)	314.4 (1.3)	321.9 (2.6)	320.3 (1.4)	319.4 (1.9)
17-year-olds ¹									
Average	285.2 (1.2)	285.6 (0.8)	285.5 (1.2)	288.8 (0.8)	290.1 (1.0)	290.2 (1.1)	289.7 (1.1)	288.1 (1.3)	286.9 (1.1)
Standard deviation	45.8 (0.5)	44.0 (0.6)	41.8 (0.6)	40.3 (0.3)	37.1 (0.7)	41.3 (0.7)	43.0 (0.6)	44.4 (1.0)	42.3 (0.8)
Percentiles									
5th	206.1 (1.5)	209.3 (3.0)	213.0 (1.7)	219.9 (1.3)	226.1 (1.3)	220.0 (2.3)	214.3 (2.9)	210.8 (3.6)	213.2 (2.4)
10th	225.3 (1.7)	228.4 (1.7)	230.6 (1.8)	236.0 (0.9)	241.5 (2.2)	236.9 (3.1)	232.7 (2.7)	230.0 (3.1)	231.4 (1.7)
25th	255.9 (1.6)	257.8 (1.1)	258.7 (1.2)	262.5 (1.1)	265.7 (1.8)	263.5 (1.3)	262.6 (1.1)	259.8 (1.8)	259.1 (1.3)
50th	287.7 (1.4)	287.9 (0.7)	287.5 (1.4)	290.3 (0.9)	291.1 (1.9)	291.1 (1.3)	293.0 (1.2)	289.9 (1.8)	288.2 (1.8)
75th	316.7 (1.0)	315.7 (0.7)	314.6 (1.2)	316.8 (0.9)	316.0 (1.4)	318.6 (1.5)	319.4 (1.4)	318.7 (1.8)	315.8 (1.7)
90th	341.7 (1.1)	340.0 (0.9)	337.5 (1.4)	339.6 (0.7)	336.9 (2.1)	342.7 (2.1)	342.7 (1.8)	343.0 (1.8)	340.4 (1.7)
95th	356.5 (1.5)	354.3 (0.7)	350.9 (1.3)	352.6 (1.0)	348.7 (1.8)	356.0 (1.7)	355.8 (1.9)	357.7 (1.7)	354.4 (2.6)

¹ Excludes persons not enrolled in school.

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 complicated 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. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared May 1999.)