

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three content areas: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

Overall Reading Results for Alabama	Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels																																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Alabama was 252. This was not significantly different from¹ their average score in 2003 (253), and was not significantly different from their average score in 1998 (255). Alabama's average score (252) in 2005 was lower than that of the Nation's public schools (260). Of the 52 states and other jurisdictions² that participated in the 2005 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale scores in Alabama were higher than those in 1 jurisdiction, not significantly different from those in 9 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 41 jurisdictions. The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP <i>Proficient</i> level was 22 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (22 percent), and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (22 percent). The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP <i>Basic</i> level was 63 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (65 percent), and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (67 percent). 	<p>Alabama (public)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Alabama (public) Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Below Basic</th> <th>Basic</th> <th>Proficient</th> <th>Advanced</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1998¹</td> <td>34</td> <td>45*</td> <td>20</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1998</td> <td>33</td> <td>45</td> <td>21</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>36</td> <td>43</td> <td>20</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>35</td> <td>42</td> <td>21</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>37</td> <td>41</td> <td>20</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Nation (public)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Nation (public) Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels (2005)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Below Basic</th> <th>Basic</th> <th>Proficient</th> <th>Advanced</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>29</td> <td>42</td> <td>26</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Percent below <i>Basic</i> Percent at <i>Basic</i>, <i>Proficient</i>, and <i>Advanced</i></p> <p>■ Below <i>Basic</i> □ <i>Basic</i> ■ <i>Proficient</i> ■ <i>Advanced</i></p> <p>¹ Accommodations were not permitted for this assessment.</p> <p>NOTE: The NAEP reading achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: <i>Below Basic</i>, 242 or lower; <i>Basic</i>, 243–280; <i>Proficient</i>, 281–322; <i>Advanced</i>, 323 or above.</p>	Year	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	1998 ¹	34	45*	20	1	1998	33	45	21	1	2002	36	43	20	1	2003	35	42	21	2	2005	37	41	20	2	Year	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	2005	29	42	26	3
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Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Alabama						
Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	50	245	45	55	17	1
Female	50	260	30	70	27	3
White	58	263	25	75	31	3
Black	38	235	56	44	9	#
Hispanic	2	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	50	239	51	49	11	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	48	265	24	76	32	3

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups	Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles																												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, male students in Alabama had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 15 points. In 1998, the average score for male students was lower than that of female students by 11 points. In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 29 points. In 1998, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 28 points. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 2005, because reporting standards were not met. Therefore, the performance gap data are not reported. In 2005, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of poverty, had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch by 26 points. In 1998, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 24 points. In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 49 points. In 1998, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 44 points. 	<table border="1"> <caption>Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>75th Percentile (Accommodations not permitted)</th> <th>75th Percentile (Accommodations permitted)</th> <th>50th Percentile (Accommodations not permitted)</th> <th>50th Percentile (Accommodations permitted)</th> <th>25th Percentile (Accommodations not permitted)</th> <th>25th Percentile (Accommodations permitted)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>'98</td> <td>277</td> <td>278</td> <td>257</td> <td>258</td> <td>234</td> <td>234</td> </tr> <tr> <td>'02</td> <td>277</td> <td>279</td> <td>256</td> <td>256</td> <td>231</td> <td>232</td> </tr> <tr> <td>'05</td> <td>278</td> <td>278</td> <td>255</td> <td>255</td> <td>229</td> <td>229</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Legend: ■ --- ■ Accommodations were not permitted; □ --- □ Accommodations were permitted</p> <p>Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP reading scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed.</p>	Year	75th Percentile (Accommodations not permitted)	75th Percentile (Accommodations permitted)	50th Percentile (Accommodations not permitted)	50th Percentile (Accommodations permitted)	25th Percentile (Accommodations not permitted)	25th Percentile (Accommodations permitted)	'98	277	278	257	258	234	234	'02	277	279	256	256	231	232	'05	278	278	255	255	229	229
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The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2005.

↑ Significantly higher than 2003. ↓ Significantly lower than 2003.

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates across years for students with disabilities (4% nationally in 2005) and English language learners (1% nationally in 2005) in the NAEP samples. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

² "Other Jurisdictions" refers to the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and because the "Information not available" category for free/reduced-price lunch and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed. Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for additional results and detailed information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), selected years, 1998–2005 Reading Assessments.