

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

Overall Reading Results for Illinois	Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels																							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, the average scale score for fourth-grade students in Illinois was 216. This was not significantly different from¹ their average score in 2003 (216). Illinois' average score (216) in 2005 was not significantly different from that of the Nation's public schools (217). Of the 52 states and other jurisdictions² that participated in the 2005 fourth-grade assessment, students' average scale scores in Illinois were higher than those in 10 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 14 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 27 jurisdictions. The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP <i>Proficient</i> level was 29 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (31 percent) The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP <i>Basic</i> level was 62 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (61 percent). 	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Illinois (public)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>39</td> <td>30</td> <td>23</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>38</td> <td>33</td> <td>23</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="4">Nation (public)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>38</td> <td>33</td> <td>23</td> <td>7</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>NOTE: The NAEP reading achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: Below <i>Basic</i>, 207 or lower; <i>Basic</i>, 208–237; <i>Proficient</i>, 238–267; <i>Advanced</i>, 268 or above.</p>	Illinois (public)				2003	39	30	23	8	2005	38	33	23	7	Nation (public)				2005	38	33	23	7
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Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Illinois						
Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent at or above <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	52	215	38	62	28	6
Female	48	218	37	63	30	8
White	55	230	22	78	42	10
Black	20	194	65	35	9	1
Hispanic	21	199	56	44	14	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	230	25	75	44	12
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	42	198	59	41	13	2
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	58	230	22	78	41	10

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups	Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2005, male students in Illinois had an average score that was not found to be significantly different from that of female students. In 2003, the average score for male students was lower than that of female students by 5 points. In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 36 points. In 2003, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 34 points. In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 31 points. In 2003, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 31 points. 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 32 points. In 2003, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 35 points. In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 49 points. In 2003, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 53 points. 	<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>

The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2003.

↑ 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 (5% nationally in 2005) and English language learners (2% 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, 2003–2005 Reading Assessments.