NCES National Center for Education Statistics
The Nation's Report Card NAEP

The Nation's Report Card

State Science 2005

Rhode Island
Grade 8
Public Schools

Snapshot Report

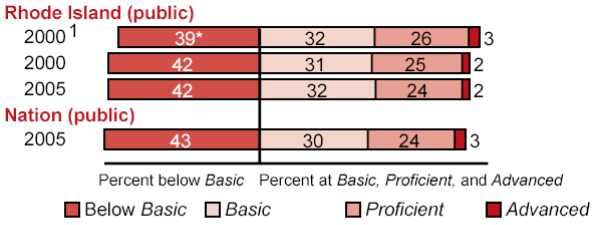
NCES 2006-467RI8

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses science in two major dimensions: Fields of Science (Earth, Physical, and Life) and Knowing and Doing Science (Conceptual Understanding, Scientific Investigation, and Practical Reasoning). The NAEP science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Scales are created separately for each grade.

Overall Science Results for Rhode Island

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Rhode Island was 146. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2000 (148).[1]
- Rhode Island's average score (146) in 2005 was not significantly different from that of the nation's public schools (147).
- Of the 44 states and one jurisdiction that participated in the 2005 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in Rhode Island was higher than those in 10 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 9 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 25 jurisdictions.[2]
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 26 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (27 percent).
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 58 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (58 percent).

Student Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels



[1] Accommodations were not permitted for this assessment.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: Below *Basic*, 142 or lower; *Basic*, 143–169; *Proficient*, 170–207; *Advanced*, 208 or above.

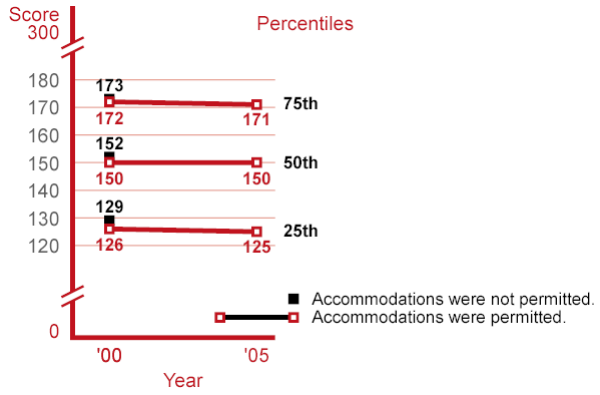
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Rhode Island: 2005

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below *Basic*	Percent of students at or above *Basic*	Percent of students at or above *Proficient*	Percent *Advanced*
Male	52	149	40	60	29	3
Female	48	144	45	55	23	1
White	74 ↓	156	31	69	33	3
Black	7 ↑	122	74	26	5	#
Hispanic	15 ↑	115	78	22	4	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	141	52	48	20	2
American Indian/Alaska Native	1 ↑	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	30 ↑	127	66	34	9	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	70	155	32	68	33	3

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Rhode Island had an average score that was higher than that of female students by 5 points. In 2000, the average score for male students was higher 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 33 points. In 2000, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 25 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 41 points. In 2000, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 39 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 27 points. In 2000, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 28 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points. In 2000, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points.

Science Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles



Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP science scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed.

The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2005.

↑ Significantly higher than 2000. ↓ Significantly lower than 2000.

[1] Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Comparisons across jurisdictions and comparisons with the nation or within a jurisdiction across years may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL). The exclusion rates for SD and ELL in Rhode Island were 3 percent and 1 percent in 2005, respectively. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

[2] "Jurisdiction" refers to states 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 school lunch and the "Unclassifed" 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), 2000 and 2005 Science Assessments.