

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 Washington	Student Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Washington's average score (153) in 2005 was higher than that of the nation's public schools (149).<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Of the 44 states and one jurisdiction that participated in the 2005 fourth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in Washington was higher than those in 17 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 11 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 16 jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>The percentage of students in Washington who performed at or above the NAEP <i>Proficient</i> level was 28 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in the nation (27 percent).</li> <li>The percentage of students in Washington who performed at or above the NAEP <i>Basic</i> level was 71 percent in 2005. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (66 percent).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Washington (public)</b>      2005: 29 (Below Basic), 42 (Basic), 26 (Proficient), 3 (Advanced)</p> <p><b>Nation (public)</b>      2005: 34* (Below Basic), 39* (Basic), 25 (Proficient), 2 (Advanced)</p> <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 grade 4 science achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: Below <i>Basic</i>, 137 or lower; <i>Basic</i>, 138–169; <i>Proficient</i>, 170–204; <i>Advanced</i>, 205 or above.</p>

**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Washington: 2005**

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	155↑	28↓	72↑	32	3
Female	49	151↑	31↓	69↑	25	2
White	71↑	158↓	22↑	78↓	34↓	3
Black	6↓	137↑	50↓	50↑	10	#
Hispanic	13↓	132	58	42	7	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	8↑	154	27	73	29	3
American Indian/Alaska Native	2↑	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	37↓	140↑	45↓	55↑	14	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	58↑	161	18	82	39	4

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2005, male students in Washington had an average score that was higher than that of female students by 4 points. In the nation, the average score for male students was higher than that of female students by 4 points.
- In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 21 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of the nation (33 points).
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. In the nation, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 29 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 21 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of the nation (27 points).
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 39 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of the nation (43 points).

**Science Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles**

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Washington	134	154	173
Nation (public)	129*	152*	172

Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP science scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed. For example, the data above shows that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 172, while 75 percent of students in Washington scored below 173.

# The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

\* Significantly different from Washington.

↑ Significantly higher than nation (public). ↓ Significantly lower than nation (public).

<sup>1</sup> 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 Washington were 2 percent and 1 percent in 2005, respectively. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

<sup>2</sup> "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 "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), 2005 Science Assessment.