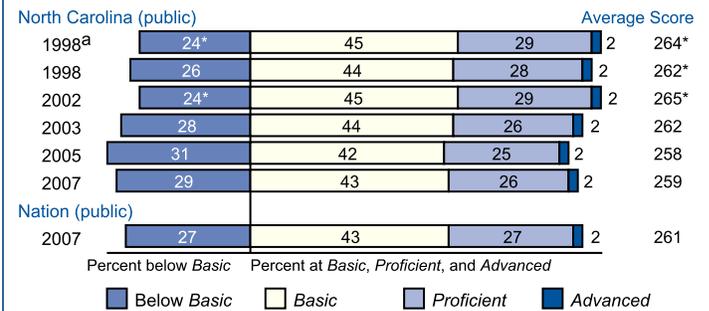


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three content areas in grade 8: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

Overall Reading Results for North Carolina

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in North Carolina was 259. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2005 (258) and was lower than their average score in 1998 (262).¹
- North Carolina's average score (259) in 2007 was not significantly different from that of the nation's public schools (261).
- Of the 52 states and other jurisdictions that participated in the 2007 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in North Carolina was higher than those in 10 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 12 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 29 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in North Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 28 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2005 (27 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (30 percent).
- The percentage of students in North Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 71 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2005 (69 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (74 percent).

Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels and Average Score



^a Accommodations were not permitted for this assessment.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 reading achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: *Below Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243–280; *Proficient*, 281–322; *Advanced*, 323 or above.

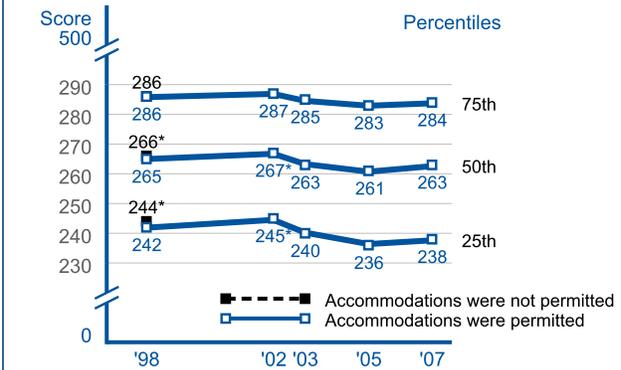
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in North Carolina: 2007

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above		Percent Advanced
				Basic	Proficient	
Male	52	254	34	66	24	1
Female	48	265	23	77	33	3
White	58	270	18	82	39	3
Black	30	241	47	53	10	#
Hispanic	7	246	44	56	16	2
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	265	23	77	34	2
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	236	55	45	15	#
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	44 ↑	246	43	57	14	1
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	55 ↓	270	18	82	39	3

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2007, male students in North Carolina had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 11 points. In 1998, the average score for male students was lower than that of female students by 14 points.
- In 2007, 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 25 points.
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 24 points. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 1998, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2007, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, a proxy for poverty, had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch by 25 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 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points. In 1998, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 44 points.

Reading Scores at Selected Percentiles



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

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2007.

↑ Significantly higher than 2005. ↓ Significantly lower than 2005.

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/narrower/wider/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages. 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 North Carolina were 3 percent and 1 percent in 2007, respectively. For more information on NAEP significance testing see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/interpret-results.asp#statistical>.

² "Jurisdictions" refers to states and 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 the National School Lunch Program, which provides free and reduced-price lunches, 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), various years, 1998–2007 Reading Assessments.