

Table 109.—Average student proficiency in reading, by age and selected characteristics of students: 1971 to 1996

Selected characteristics of students	1971	1975	1980	1984	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9-year-olds ¹									
Total	207.6 (1.0)	210.0 (0.7)	215.0 (1.0)	210.9 (0.7)	211.8 (1.1)	209.2 (1.2)	210.5 (0.9)	211.0 (1.2)	212.4 (1.0)
Male	201.2 (1.1)	204.3 (0.8)	210.0 (1.1)	207.5 (0.8)	207.5 (1.4)	204.0 (1.7)	205.9 (1.3)	207.3 (1.3)	206.8 (1.5)
Female	213.9 (1.0)	215.8 (0.8)	220.1 (1.1)	214.2 (0.8)	216.3 (1.3)	214.5 (1.2)	215.4 (0.9)	214.7 (1.4)	218.0 (1.2)
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	214.0 (0.9)	216.6 (0.7)	221.3 (0.8)	218.2 (0.8)	217.7 (1.4)	217.0 (1.3)	217.9 (1.0)	218.0 (1.3)	219.9 (1.2)
Black, non-Hispanic	170.1 (1.7)	181.2 (1.2)	189.3 (1.8)	185.7 (1.1)	188.5 (2.4)	181.8 (2.9)	184.5 (2.2)	185.4 (2.3)	190.0 (2.7)
Hispanic	(²)	182.7 (2.2)	190.2 (2.3)	187.2 (2.1)	193.7 (3.5)	189.4 (2.3)	191.7 (3.1)	185.9 (3.9)	194.1 (3.5)
Parental education									
Not high school graduate	188.6 (1.5)	189.9 (1.3)	194.3 (1.6)	195.1 (1.4)	192.5 (4.9)	192.6 (3.2)	194.9 (4.5)	189.1 (4.0)	197.0 (3.6)
Graduated high school	207.8 (1.2)	211.3 (0.9)	213.0 (1.3)	208.9 (1.0)	210.8 (2.2)	209.1 (1.8)	207.4 (1.5)	207.1 (2.6)	207.0 (2.1)
Post high school	223.9 (1.1)	221.5 (0.9)	226.0 (1.1)	222.9 (0.9)	220.0 (1.7)	217.7 (2.0)	219.5 (1.4)	221.0 (1.3)	220.0 (1.4)
Control of school									
Public	— —	— —	213.5 (1.1)	209.4 (0.8)	210.2 (1.2)	207.5 (1.4)	208.6 (1.0)	209.4 (1.4)	210.0 (1.1)
Private	— —	— —	227.0 (1.8)	222.8 (1.6)	223.4 (3.0)	228.3 (3.3)	224.7 (2.3)	225.0 (2.7)	227.0 (3.1)
Region									
Northeast	213.0 (1.7)	214.8 (1.3)	221.1 (2.1)	215.7 (1.7)	215.2 (2.6)	217.4 (2.2)	217.6 (2.6)	217.4 (2.9)	220.0 (1.9)
Southeast	193.9 (2.9)	201.1 (1.2)	210.3 (2.3)	204.3 (1.6)	207.2 (2.1)	197.4 (3.2)	199.3 (2.0)	208.4 (3.0)	206.0 (2.9)
Central	214.9 (1.2)	215.5 (1.2)	216.7 (1.4)	215.3 (1.5)	218.2 (2.2)	212.7 (2.0)	215.8 (1.6)	214.3 (2.3)	215.0 (2.7)
West	205.0 (2.0)	207.0 (2.0)	212.8 (1.8)	207.8 (1.5)	207.9 (2.6)	209.6 (2.8)	209.3 (2.3)	205.1 (2.8)	210.0 (2.0)
13-year-olds ¹									
Total	255.2 (0.9)	255.9 (0.8)	258.5 (0.9)	257.1 (0.5)	257.5 (1.0)	256.8 (0.8)	259.8 (1.2)	257.9 (0.9)	259.1 (0.9)
Male	249.6 (1.0)	249.6 (0.8)	254.3 (1.1)	252.6 (0.6)	251.8 (1.3)	250.5 (1.1)	254.1 (1.7)	250.6 (1.2)	252.5 (1.2)
Female	260.8 (0.9)	262.3 (0.9)	262.6 (0.9)	261.7 (0.6)	263.0 (1.0)	263.1 (1.1)	265.3 (1.2)	265.7 (1.2)	265.4 (1.2)
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	260.9 (0.7)	262.1 (0.7)	264.4 (0.7)	262.6 (0.6)	261.3 (1.1)	262.3 (0.9)	266.4 (1.2)	265.1 (1.1)	267.0 (1.0)
Black, non-Hispanic	222.4 (1.2)	225.7 (1.2)	232.8 (1.5)	236.3 (1.0)	242.9 (2.4)	241.5 (2.2)	237.6 (2.3)	234.3 (2.4)	235.6 (2.6)
Hispanic	(²)	232.5 (3.0)	237.2 (2.0)	239.6 (1.7)	240.1 (3.5)	237.8 (2.3)	239.2 (3.5)	235.1 (1.9)	239.9 (2.9)
Parental education									
Not high school graduate	238.4 (1.3)	238.7 (1.2)	238.5 (1.1)	240.0 (0.9)	246.5 (2.1)	240.8 (1.8)	239.2 (2.6)	236.7 (2.4)	241.0 (2.7)
Graduated high school	255.5 (0.8)	254.6 (0.7)	253.5 (0.9)	253.4 (0.7)	252.7 (1.2)	251.4 (0.9)	252.1 (1.7)	251.4 (1.4)	252.0 (1.4)
Post high school	270.2 (0.8)	269.8 (0.8)	270.9 (0.8)	267.6 (0.7)	265.3 (1.4)	266.9 (1.0)	269.9 (1.4)	268.5 (1.2)	270.0 (1.2)
Control of school									
Public	— —	— —	256.9 (1.1)	255.2 (0.6)	256.1 (1.0)	255.0 (0.8)	257.2 (1.3)	255.6 (1.0)	257.0 (1.1)
Private	— —	— —	270.6 (1.5)	271.2 (1.7)	268.3 (2.8)	269.7 (2.9)	276.3 (2.6)	275.8 (3.4)	274.0 (3.3)
Region									
Northeast	261.1 (2.0)	258.5 (1.8)	260.0 (1.8)	260.4 (0.6)	258.6 (2.4)	258.9 (1.8)	264.6 (3.2)	269.0 (2.0)	261.0 (2.5)
Southeast	244.7 (1.7)	249.3 (1.5)	252.6 (1.6)	256.4 (1.5)	257.6 (2.2)	255.5 (2.2)	253.8 (2.5)	252.7 (2.5)	252.0 (3.2)
Central	260.1 (1.8)	261.5 (1.4)	264.5 (1.4)	258.8 (1.0)	255.9 (2.0)	257.4 (1.5)	263.5 (3.0)	259.3 (3.3)	268.0 (1.8)
West	253.6 (1.3)	253.2 (1.7)	256.4 (2.0)	253.8 (0.9)	257.9 (2.1)	255.6 (1.6)	257.5 (1.6)	252.9 (2.1)	258.0 (1.7)
17-year-olds ¹									
Total	285.2 (1.2)	285.6 (0.8)	285.5 (1.2)	288.8 (0.6)	290.1 (1.0)	290.2 (1.1)	289.7 (1.1)	288.1 (1.3)	286.9 (1.1)
Male	278.9 (1.2)	279.7 (1.0)	281.8 (1.3)	283.8 (0.6)	286.0 (1.5)	284.0 (1.6)	284.2 (1.6)	281.7 (2.2)	279.9 (1.3)
Female	291.3 (1.3)	291.2 (1.0)	289.2 (1.2)	293.9 (0.8)	293.8 (1.5)	296.5 (1.2)	295.7 (1.1)	294.7 (1.5)	294.4 (1.2)
Race/ethnicity									
White, non-Hispanic	291.4 (1.0)	293.0 (0.6)	292.8 (0.9)	295.2 (0.7)	294.7 (1.2)	296.6 (1.2)	297.4 (1.4)	295.7 (1.5)	294.4 (1.2)
Black, non-Hispanic	238.7 (1.7)	240.6 (2.0)	243.1 (1.8)	264.3 (1.0)	274.4 (2.4)	267.3 (2.3)	260.6 (2.1)	266.2 (3.9)	265.4 (2.7)
Hispanic	(²)	252.4 (3.6)	261.4 (2.7)	268.1 (2.2)	270.8 (4.3)	274.8 (3.6)	271.2 (3.7)	263.2 (4.9)	264.7 (4.1)
Parental education									
Not high school graduate	261.3 (1.5)	262.5 (1.3)	262.1 (1.5)	269.4 (1.1)	267.4 (2.0)	269.7 (2.8)	270.8 (3.9)	267.9 (2.7)	267.0 (3.2)
Graduated high school	283.0 (1.2)	281.4 (1.1)	277.5 (1.0)	281.2 (0.7)	282.0 (1.3)	282.9 (1.4)	280.5 (1.6)	276.1 (1.9)	273.0 (1.7)
Post high school	302.2 (1.0)	300.6 (0.7)	298.9 (1.0)	301.2 (0.7)	299.5 (1.3)	299.9 (1.1)	298.6 (1.4)	298.5 (1.4)	297.0 (1.2)
Control of school									
Public	— —	— —	284.4 (1.2)	287.2 (0.6)	288.7 (1.0)	288.6 (1.1)	287.8 (1.0)	286.0 (1.5)	286.0 (1.1)
Private	— —	— —	298.4 (2.7)	303.0 (2.0)	299.6 (3.8)	311.0 (4.2)	309.6 (4.2)	306.1 (5.8)	294.0 (5.7)
Region									
Northeast	291.3 (2.8)	289.1 (1.7)	285.9 (2.4)	292.2 (1.9)	294.8 (2.9)	295.7 (1.8)	297.3 (3.2)	296.8 (4.2)	291.0 (2.8)
Southeast	270.5 (2.4)	276.5 (1.4)	280.1 (2.2)	284.7 (1.6)	285.5 (2.1)	285.1 (2.5)	278.4 (2.9)	283.5 (2.8)	279.0 (2.6)
Central	290.7 (2.1)	291.8 (1.4)	287.4 (2.2)	290.0 (1.4)	291.2 (1.9)	293.5 (2.4)	293.8 (2.1)	285.7 (3.7)	292.0 (2.1)
West	283.7 (1.8)	281.6 (1.9)	287.3 (2.1)	288.4 (1.1)	289.0 (1.8)	286.8 (2.6)	290.4 (2.3)	287.8 (2.8)	286.0 (2.4)

¹ Excludes persons not enrolled in school.

² Test scores of Hispanics were not tabulated separately.

NOTE.—These test scores are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP scores have been evaluated at certain performance levels. A score of 300 implies an ability to find, understand, summarize, and explain relatively complicated literary and informational material. A score of 250 implies an ability to search for specific information, interrelate ideas, and make generalizations about literature, science, and social studies materials. A score of 200 implies an ability to understand,

combine ideas, and make inferences based on short uncomplicated passages about specific or sequentially related information. A score of 150 implies an ability to follow brief written directions and carry out simple, discrete reading tasks. Scale ranges from 0 to 500. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared October 1998.)