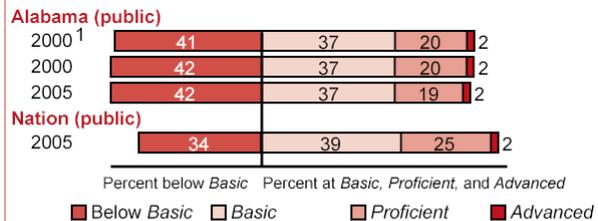


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses science in two major dimensions: Fields of Science (Earth, Physical, and Life) and Knowing and Doing Science (Conceptual Understanding, Scientific Investigation, and Practical Reasoning). The NAEP science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Scales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

Overall Science Results for Alabama

- In 2005, the average scale score for fourth-grade students in Alabama was 142. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2000 (143).¹
- Alabama's average score (142) in 2005 was lower than that of the nation's public schools (149).
- Of the 44 states and one jurisdiction that participated in the 2005 fourth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in Alabama was higher than those in 2 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 5 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 37 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Alabama who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 21 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (22 percent).
- The percentage of students in Alabama 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 4 science achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: *Below Basic*, 137 or lower; *Basic*, 138–169; *Proficient*, 170–204; *Advanced*, 205 or above.

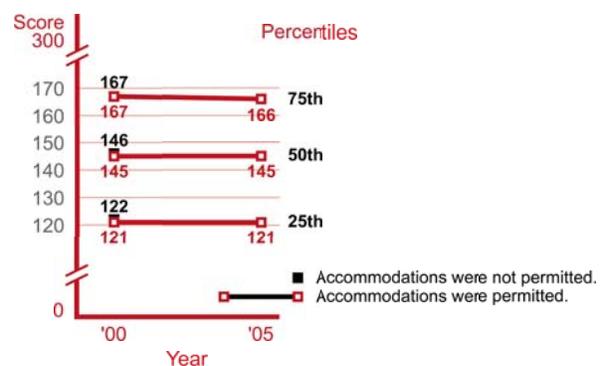
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Alabama: 2005

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	143	41	59	22	2
Female	49	142	43	57	19	1
White	58	156	24	76	31	3
Black	38	121	70	30	4	#
Hispanic	2 [†]	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	55	129	59	41	8	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	43	159	21	79	35	3

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Alabama had an average score that was not significantly different from that of female students. In 2000, there was no significant difference between the average score of male and female students.
- In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 35 points. In 2000, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 33 points.
- Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 2005, because reporting standards were not met. Therefore, the performance gap results are not reported.
- 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 30 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 30 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 45 points. In 2000, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 45 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 Alabama were 1 percent and percentage rounds to zero 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 "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), 2000 and 2005 Science Assessments.