

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 Montana

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Montana was 162. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2000 (164), and was not significantly different from their average score in 1996 (162).¹
- Montana's average score (162) in 2005 was higher than 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 Montana was higher than those in 38 jurisdictions, and not significantly different from those in 6 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Montana who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 42 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (44 percent), and was not significantly different from that in 1996 (41 percent).
- The percentage of students in Montana who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 76 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (79 percent), and was not significantly different from that in 1996 (77 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.

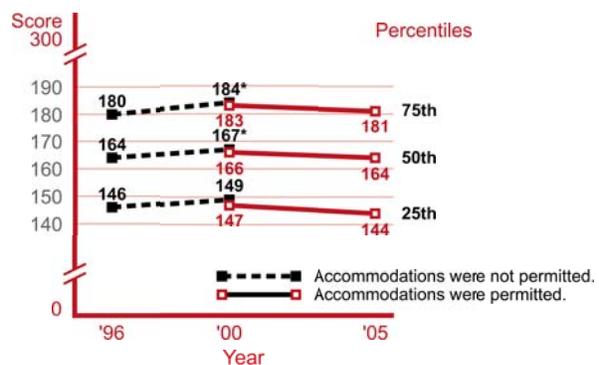
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Montana: 2005

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above Basic	Percent Proficient	Percent Advanced
Male	49 ↓	162	24	76	43	4
Female	51 ↑	161	23	77	40	3
White	87	165	19	81	45	4
Black	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Hispanic	2	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	135	58	42	14	1
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	33	149	38	62	26	1
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	66 ↑	168	16	84	49	5

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Montana had an average score that was not significantly different from that of female students. In 1996, there was no significant difference between the average score of male and female students.
- Data are not reported for Black students in 2005, because reporting standards were not met. Therefore, the performance gap results are not reported.
- 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 18 points. In 1996, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 16 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 37 points. In 1996, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 34 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 Montana 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 "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), 1996, 2000, and 2005 Science Assessments.