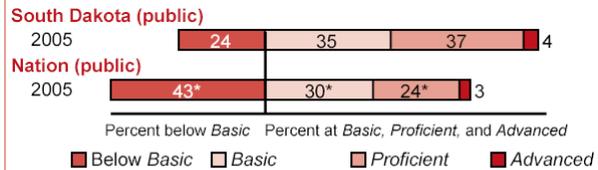


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses science in two major dimensions: Fields of Science (Earth, Physical, and Life) and Knowing and Doing Science (Conceptual Understanding, Scientific Investigation, and Practical Reasoning). The NAEP science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Scales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

Overall Science Results for South Dakota

- South Dakota's average score (161) in 2005 was higher than that of the nation's public schools (147).¹
- Of the 44 states and one jurisdiction that participated in the 2005 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in South Dakota was higher than those in 37 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 6 jurisdictions, and lower than that in 1 jurisdiction.²
- The percentage of students in South Dakota who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 41 percent in 2005. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (27 percent).
- The percentage of students in South Dakota who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 76 percent in 2005. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (57 percent).

Student Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels



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 South Dakota: 2005

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	50	164↑	22↓	78↑	45↑	5
Female	50	158↑	26↓	74↑	37↑	3
White	85↑	165↑	19↓	81↑	45↑	4
Black	2↓	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Hispanic	2↓	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Asian/Pacific Islander	1↓	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	10↑	133	59	41	12	1
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	36↓	149↑	39↓	61↑	27↑	2↑
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	63↑	168↑	16↓	84↑	49↑	5

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in South Dakota had an average score that was higher than that of female students by 6 points. In the nation, the average score for male students was higher than that of female students by 4 points.
- 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 19 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of the nation (28 points).
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 38 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of the nation (48 points).

Science Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
South Dakota	144	164	182
Nation (public)	124 *	150 *	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 South Dakota scored below 182.

The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from South Dakota.

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

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 South Dakota 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), 2005 Science Assessment.