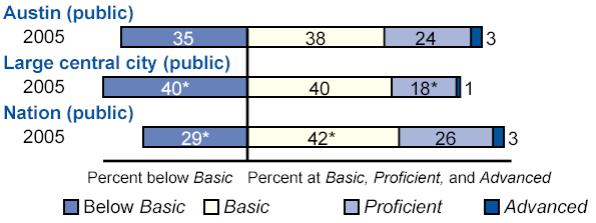
The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading on a 0-500 point scale. In 2005, Austin Independent School District was one of ten urban districts that voluntarily participated in the NAEP reading assessment on a trial basis.

Overall Reading Results for Austin

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Austin was 257. This was not significantly different from the average score in the nation (260).[1]
- Austin's average score (257) in 2005 was higher than that of public schools in large central cities[2] (250).
- The percentage of students in Austin who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 27 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in the nation (29 percent).
- The percentage of students in Austin who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 65 percent in 2005. This percentage was smaller than that in the nation (71 percent).

Student Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels



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 Austin: 2005

Reporting groups	Percent of students[3]	Average score	Percent below *Basic*	Percent of students at or above *Basic*	Percent of students at or above *Proficient*	Percent *Advanced*
Male	51	253	38	62	25	2
Female	49	260	32↑	68↓	30	4
White	35↓	279↑	14↓	86↑	50↑	7
Black	12↓	242	48	52	10	#
Hispanic	50↑	243	48	52	13	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	49↑	240	51↑	49↓	12	1
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	50↓	272	19	81	43	6

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Austin had an average score that was not significantly different from that of female students. In the nation, the average score for male students was lower than that of female students by 10 points.
- In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 37 points. In the nation, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 27 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 35 points. This performance gap was wider than that of the nation (24 points).
- 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 32 points. This performance gap was wider than that of the nation (23 points).
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 52 points. In the nation, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points.

Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile
Austin	231	259	283
Large central city (public)	227	252 *	275 *
Nation (public)	238 *	263	285

Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP reading 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 285, while 75 percent of students in Austin scored below 283.

The estimate rounds to zero.
‡ Reporting standards not met.
* Significantly different from Austin.
↑ 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 Austin were 8 percent and 6 percent in 2005, respectively. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.
[2] "Large central city" includes public schools located in large central cities (population 250,000 or more) within metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget. It is not synonymous with "inner city."
[3] For comparison, non-White students comprised 76 percent of students in large central city public schools and 39 percent in public schools nationally. Also, students eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch comprised 63 percent of students in large central city public schools and 39 percent in public schools nationally.
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 "Unclassifed" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed. Visit http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/tuda.asp 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 Trial Urban District Reading Assessment.