

Highlights

ies NATIONAL CENTER FOR
EDUCATION STATISTICS
Institute of Education Sciences

U.S. Department of Education
NCES 2009-494

The 
Nation's
Report Card

Arts 2008

Music & Visual Arts

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AT GRADE 8



Highlights

The 2008 NAEP Arts Assessment measured students' knowledge and skills in the arts by asking them to observe, describe, analyze, and evaluate existing works of music and visual art and to create original works of visual art.

A nationally representative sample of 7,900 eighth-grade students from 260 public and private schools participated in the 2008 arts assessment. Approximately one-half of these students were assessed in music, and the other half were assessed in visual arts.



The Arts Framework

The NAEP arts framework serves as the blueprint for the assessment, describing the specific knowledge and skills that should be assessed in the arts disciplines. Developed under the guidance of the National Assessment Governing Board, the framework reflects the input of arts educators, artists, assessment specialists, policymakers, representatives from the business community, and members of the public. The *National Standards for Arts Education*¹ also served as an important reference in the development of the NAEP arts framework.

Scoring Students' Work in the Arts

Specific scoring guides were developed for scorers to use when evaluating students' responses that demonstrated a wide range of skill levels in music and visual arts.

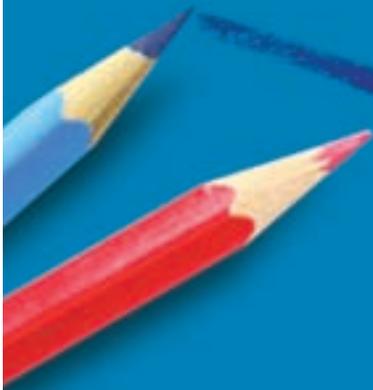
Reporting Arts Results

- The average responding scores for music and visual arts are reported on separate 0–300 scales and cannot be compared.
- The average creating task score for visual arts is reported as the average percentage of the maximum possible score ranging from 0 to 100.

Comparisons Between 1997 and 2008

Although the questions in the 2008 assessment were taken from those administered in the 1997 arts assessment, some of the scoring procedures could not be replicated in 2008. Comparisons cannot be made between students' scores in those two years. However, comparisons can be made for the percentages of students who responded correctly to the multiple-choice questions in the assessment, and the percentages of students based on responses to background questions that were asked in both years.

¹ *National Standards for Arts Education* (1994). Reston, Virginia: Music Educators National Conference.

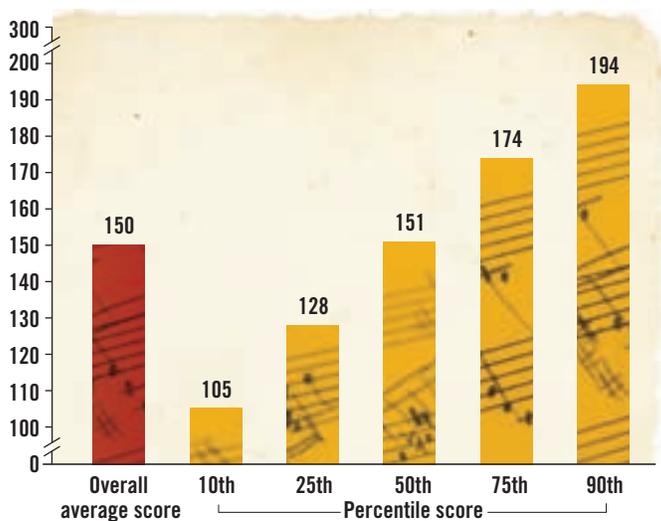


The **MUSIC** portion of the assessment measured students' ability to respond to music. Students were asked to analyze and describe aspects of music they heard, critique instrumental and vocal performances, and demonstrate their knowledge of standard musical notation and music's role in society.

Music

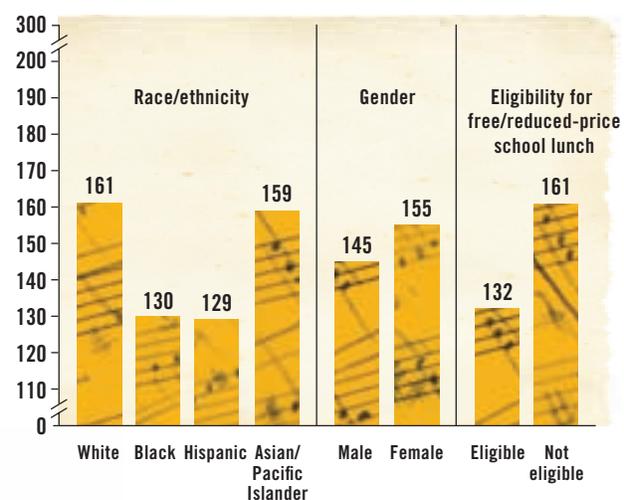
89-point score gap between the lowest- and highest-performing students

Music responding scale score



- White and Asian/Pacific Islander students scored higher than Black and Hispanic students
- Female students scored higher than male students
- Students from lower-income families scored lower than those from higher-income families

Music responding scale score



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2008 Arts Assessment.



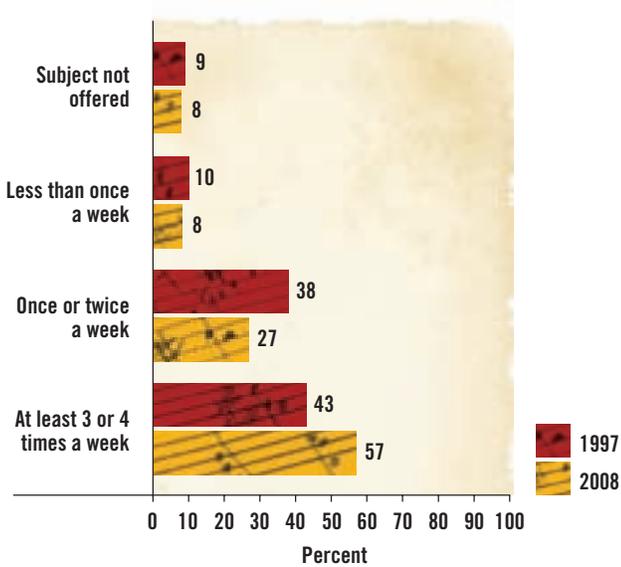


Context for Arts Education in Music

57% attended schools where music instruction was offered at least 3 or 4 times a week in 2008

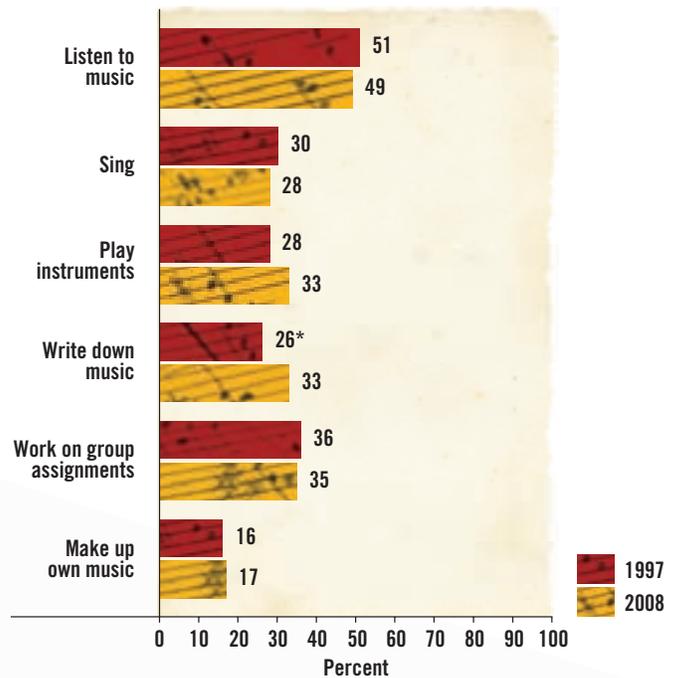
- More students were asked to write down music since 1997

Percentage of students by school-reported frequency with which instruction in music is available



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1997 and 2008 Arts Assessments.

Percentage of students who participate in music activities in school at least once a month



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2008.

What Students Know and Can Do in Music

Students listened to “Rhapsody in Blue”

At the beginning of the piece, a solo is played on

- (A) a flute
- (B) an oboe
- (C) a saxophone
- (D) a clarinet

50% correct

What does the symbol in circle 1 tell the performer to do?
Play or sing the music softly.

What is the musical (Italian) name for the symbol in circle 1?
Piano

20% correct