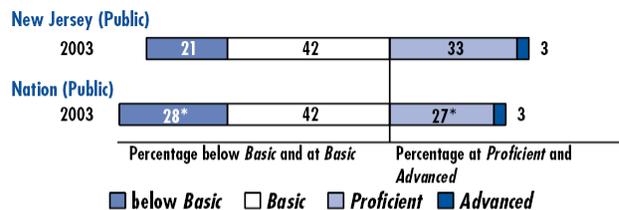


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three contexts described in the NAEP framework: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

Overall Reading Results for New Jersey

- In 2003, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in New Jersey was 268.
- New Jersey's average score (268) in 2003 was higher¹ than that of the nation's public schools (261).
- Of the 53 states and jurisdictions² that participated in the 2003 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale scores in New Jersey were higher than those in 26 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 24 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 2 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students in New Jersey who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 37 percent in 2003. The percentage of students in New Jersey who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 79 percent.

Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels



NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500, with the achievement levels corresponding to the following points: *Below Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; *Advanced*, 323 or above.

Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in New Jersey

Reporting groups	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below <i>Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	263 ↑	25 ↓	43	29 ↑	2
Female	49	272 ↑	17 ↓	40	38 ↑	5
White	60	277 ↑	12 ↓	42	42 ↑	4
Black	20	248	42	43	15	1
Hispanic	14	248	39	44	16	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	6	289 ↑	8 ↓	30 ↓	51 ↑	12
American Indian/Alaska Native	# ↓	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-price school lunch						
Eligible	24 ↓	246	44	41	15	1
Not eligible	67 ↑	275 ↑	14 ↓	42	40 ↑	5

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2003, male students in New Jersey had an average score that was lower than that of female students (9 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (11 points).
- In 2003, White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (29 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (27 points).
- In 2003, White students had an average score that was higher than that of Hispanic students (28 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (27 points).
- In 2003, students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (30 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (25 points).

Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
New Jersey	248 ↑	271 ↑	291 ↑
Nation (Public)	240	264	286

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0–500 NAEP reading scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above show that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 286, and 75 percent of students in New Jersey scored below 291.

The estimate rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

* Significantly different from New Jersey.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

² "Jurisdictions" includes participating states and other jurisdictions (such as the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools). NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for Free/reduced-price lunch is not displayed. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

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), 2003 Reading Assessment.