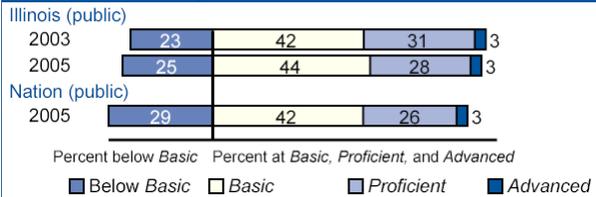


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in three content areas: reading for literary experience, to gain information, and to perform a task. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

Overall Reading Results for Illinois

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Illinois was 264. This was lower¹ than their average score in 2003 (266).
- Illinois' average score (264) in 2005 was higher than that of the Nation's public schools (260).
- Of the 52 states and other jurisdictions² that participated in the 2005 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale scores in Illinois were higher than those in 19 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 17 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 15 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 31 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (35 percent)
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 75 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (77 percent).

Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels



NOTE: The NAEP reading achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: Below Basic, 242 or lower; Basic, 243–280; Proficient, 281–322; Advanced, 323 or above.

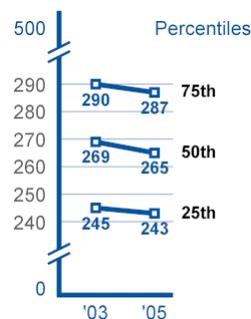
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Illinois

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above Basic	Percent Proficient	Percent Advanced
Male	51	258 ↓	30	70	25 ↓	1
Female	49	269	21	79	37	4
White	61	272	16	84	39	3
Black	21	244	47	53	12	1
Hispanic	14	253	35	65	19	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	281	8	92	49	8
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	37	248	41	59	15	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	62	273	16	84	41	4

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Illinois had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 11 points. This performance gap was wider than that of 2003 (6 points in favor of females).
- In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 28 points. In 2003, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 29 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 19 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of 2003 (26 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 24 points. In 2003, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 27 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 44 points. In 2003, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 44 points.

Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles



Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP reading scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed.

The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2005.

↑ Significantly higher than 2003. ↓ Significantly lower than 2003.

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 across years for students with disabilities (4% nationally in 2005) and English language learners (1% nationally in 2005) in the NAEP samples. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

² "Other Jurisdictions" refers to the District of Columbia 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 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), selected years, 2003–2005 Reading Assessments.