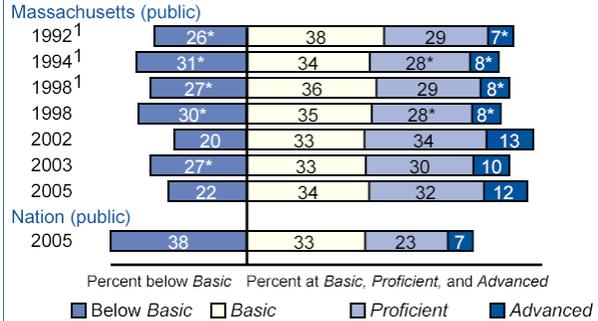


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading in two content areas: reading for literary experience and to gain information. The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500.

Overall Reading Results for Massachusetts

- In 2005, the average scale score for fourth-grade students in Massachusetts was 231. This was higher¹ than their average score in 2003 (228), and was higher than their average score in 1992 (226).
- Massachusetts' average score (231) in 2005 was higher than that of the Nation's public schools (217).
- Of the 52 states and other jurisdictions² that participated in the 2005 fourth-grade assessment, students' average scale scores in Massachusetts were higher than those in 51 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students in Massachusetts who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 44 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2003 (40 percent), and was greater than that in 1992 (36 percent).
- The percentage of students in Massachusetts who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 78 percent in 2005. This percentage was greater than that in 2003 (73 percent), and was greater than that in 1992 (74 percent).

Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels



¹ Accommodations were not permitted for this assessment.

NOTE: The NAEP reading achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: Below *Basic*, 207 or lower; *Basic*, 208–237; *Proficient*, 238–267; *Advanced*, 268 or above.

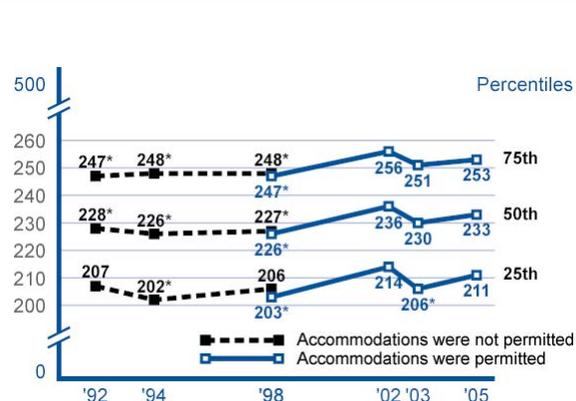
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Massachusetts

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	230 ↑	24 ↓	76 ↑	42	11
Female	49	233	21	79	45	13
White	76	237	15	85	51	14
Black	9	211	43	57	20	2
Hispanic	10	203	55	45	11	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	234	20	80	47	15
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	27	211	45	55	19	2
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	73 ↑	239	14	86	53	15

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Massachusetts had an average score that was not found to be significantly different from that of female students. In 1992, there was no significant difference between the average score of male and female students.
- In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. In 1992, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 26 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 35 points. In 1992, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 34 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 28 points. In 1998, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 28 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 42 points. In 1992, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 39 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 (5% nationally in 2005) and English language learners (2% 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, 1992–2005 Reading Assessments.