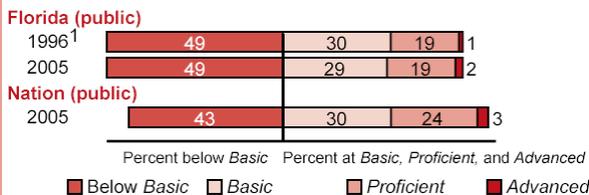


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses science in two major dimensions: Fields of Science (Earth, Physical, and Life) and Knowing and Doing Science (Conceptual Understanding, Scientific Investigation, and Practical Reasoning). The NAEP science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Scales are created separately for each grade.

Overall Science Results for Florida

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Florida was 141. This was not significantly different from their average score in 1996 (142).¹
- Florida's average score (141) in 2005 was lower than that of the nation's public schools (147).
- Of the 44 states and one jurisdiction that participated in the 2005 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in Florida was higher than those in 3 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 8 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 33 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Florida who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 21 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 1996 (21 percent).
- The percentage of students in Florida who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 51 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 1996 (51 percent).

Student Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels



¹ Accommodations were not permitted for this assessment.
 NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: *Below Basic*, 142 or lower; *Basic*, 143–169; *Proficient*, 170–207; *Advanced*, 208 or above.

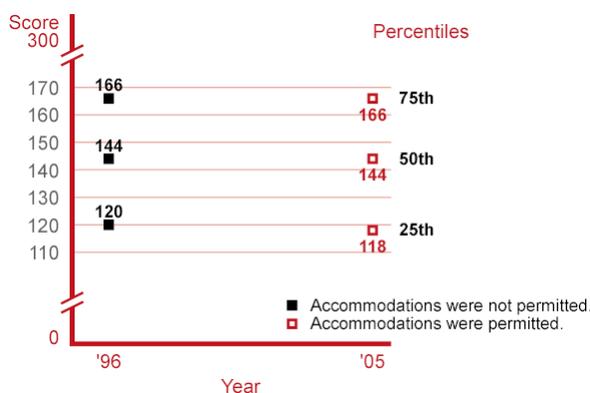
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Florida: 2005

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	49↓	142	48	52	24	3
Female	51↑	140	51	49	19	1
White	50↓	155	32	68	32	3
Black	24	118	76	24	6	#
Hispanic	22	131	62	38	14	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	149	43	57	29	2
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	46↑	128	64	36	12	1
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	53	152	36	64	30	3

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Florida had an average score that was not significantly different from that of female students. In 1996, 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 37 points. In 1996, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 37 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 24 points. In 1996, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 23 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 1996, 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 49 points. In 1996, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points.

Science Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles



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

The estimate rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from 2005.

↑ Significantly higher than 1996. ↓ Significantly lower than 1996.

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 Florida were 2 percent and 1 percent in 2005, respectively. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

² "Jurisdiction" refers to states 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 school 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), 1996 and 2005 Science Assessments.