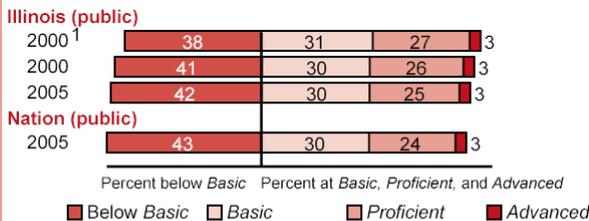


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses science in two major dimensions: Fields of Science (Earth, Physical, and Life) and Knowing and Doing Science (Conceptual Understanding, Scientific Investigation, and Practical Reasoning). The NAEP science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Scales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

Overall Science Results for Illinois

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Illinois was 148. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2000 (148).¹
- Illinois' average score (148) in 2005 was not significantly different from 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 Illinois was higher than those in 13 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 7 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 24 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 27 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (29 percent).
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 58 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (59 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.

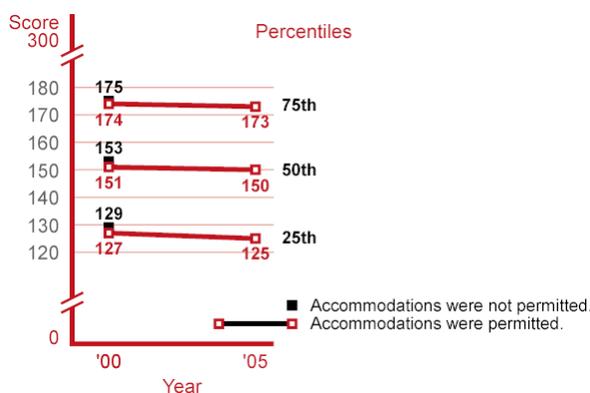
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Illinois: 2005

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	50	150	40	60	31	3
Female	50	146	44	56	24	2
White	60	161	26	74	39	4
Black	21	120	78	22	4	#
Hispanic	15	130	65	35	9	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	164	22	78	46	7
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	40	128	67	33	9	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	60	161	26	74	40	4

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2005, male students in Illinois had an average score that was higher than that of female students by 4 points. In 2000, 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 41 points. In 2000, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 43 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 31 points. In 2000, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 36 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 33 points. In 2000, the average score for students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 35 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 48 points. In 2000, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 47 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 2000. ↓ Significantly lower than 2000.

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 Illinois 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), 2000 and 2005 Science Assessments.