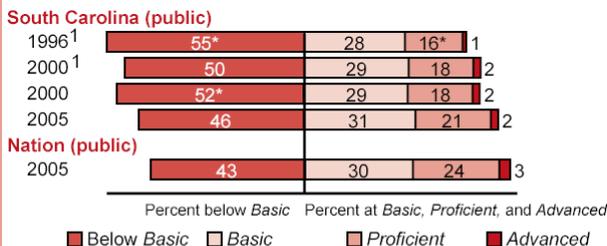


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses science in two major dimensions: Fields of Science (Earth, Physical, and Life) and Knowing and Doing Science (Conceptual Understanding, Scientific Investigation, and Practical Reasoning). The NAEP science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Scales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

**Overall Science Results for South Carolina**

- In 2005, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in South Carolina was 145. This was higher than their average score in 2000 (140), and was higher than their average score in 1996 (139).<sup>1</sup>
- South Carolina's average score (145) 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 South Carolina was higher than those in 9 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 10 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 25 jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>
- The percentage of students in South Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 23 percent in 2005. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2000 (20 percent), and was greater than that in 1996 (17 percent).
- The percentage of students in South Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 54 percent in 2005. This percentage was greater than that in 2000 (48 percent), and was greater than that in 1996 (45 percent).

**Student Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels**



<sup>1</sup> 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.

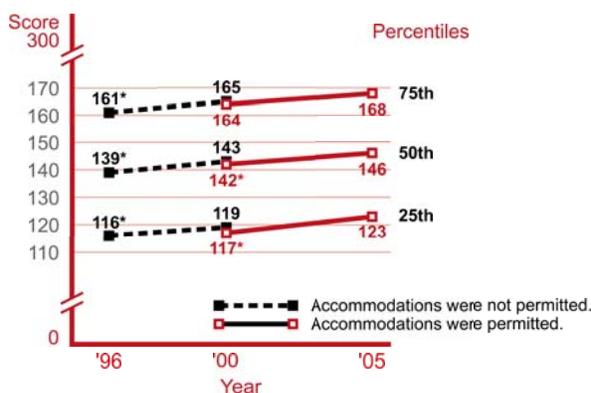
**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in South Carolina: 2005**

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	146	44	56	25	3
Female	51	144↑	48↓	52↑	20	1
White	56	159↑	28↓	72↑	35	4
Black	40	127↑	70↓	30↑	6	#
Hispanic	3	130	62	38	16	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	48	131↑	63↓	37↑	9	#
Not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch	52	158↑	30	70	35	4

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2005, male students in South Carolina had an average score that was not significantly different from that of female students. In 1996, the average score for male students was higher than that of female students by 6 points.
- In 2005, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 32 points. In 1996, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 32 points.
- In 2005, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 28 points. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 1996, because reporting standards were not met. Therefore, the performance gap results are not reported.
- 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 26 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 24 points.
- In 2005, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 45 points. In 1996, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 45 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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 South Carolina were 4 percent and 1 percent in 2005, respectively. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

<sup>2</sup> "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).

