

TIMSS 2011 results for Alabama

Science - Grade 8

- Public school students' average score was 485 at grade 8.
- The percentages of Alabama 8th-graders reaching the *Advanced*, *High*, and *Intermediate* international science benchmarks were not measurably different from the international medians (figure 12). However, Alabama 8th-graders performed above the international median at the *Low* benchmark (83 percent vs. 79 percent).
- Female students in Alabama scored below the TIMSS scale average in science (table 32).

- White students' average scores were higher than the TIMSS scale average. Asian and multiracial students' average scores were not measurably different from the TIMSS scale average. However, Black and Hispanic students scored lower, on average, than the TIMSS scale average (table 32).
- Students in public schools with less than 10 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch scored higher, on average, than the TIMSS scale average, while those in schools with 75 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch scored lower, on average, than the TIMSS scale average.

Table 31. Average science scores of 8th-grade students in Alabama public schools compared with other participating education systems: 2011

Grade 8	
Education systems higher than Alabama	
Singapore	<i>North Carolina-USA</i>
<i>Massachusetts-USA</i>	<i>Florida-USA</i>
<i>Chinese Taipei-CHN</i>	United States
Korea, Rep. of	Hungary
Japan	<i>Ontario-CAN</i>
<i>Minnesota-USA</i>	<i>Quebec-CAN</i>
Finland	Australia
<i>Alberta-CAN</i>	Israel
Slovenia	Lithuania
Russian Federation	New Zealand
<i>Colorado-USA</i>	Sweden
<i>Hong Kong-CHN</i>	Italy
<i>England-GBR</i>	Ukraine
<i>Indiana-USA</i>	
<i>Connecticut-USA</i>	
Education systems not measurably different from Alabama	
<i>California-USA</i>	<i>Dubai-UAE</i>
Norway	Turkey
Kazakhstan	Iran, Islamic Rep. of
Education systems lower than Alabama	
Romania	Syrian Arab Republic
United Arab Emirates	<i>Palestinian Nat'l Auth.</i>
Chile	Georgia
<i>Abu Dhabi-UAE</i>	Oman
Bahrain	Qatar
Thailand	Macedonia, Rep. of
Jordan	Lebanon
Tunisia	Indonesia
Armenia	Morocco
Saudi Arabia	Ghana
Malaysia	

NOTE: Italics indicate participants identified and counted in this report as an education system and not as a separate country.

SOURCE: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), 2011.

Table 32. Average science scores in grade 8 for selected student groups in public schools in Alabama: 2011

Reporting groups	Science Grade 8
TIMSS scale average	500
U.S. average	525 *
Alabama average	485 *
Sex	
Female	482 *
Male	489
Race/ethnicity	
White	519 *
Black	435 *
Hispanic	470 *
Asian	493
Multiracial	511
Percentage of public school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch	
Less than 10 percent	557 *
10 to 24.9 percent	521
25 to 49.9 percent	504
50 to 74.9 percent	492
75 percent or more	441 *

* $p < .05$. Difference between score and TIMSS scale average is significant.

NOTE: Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, and Asian includes Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian. Racial categories exclude Hispanic origin. Not all race/ethnicity categories are shown, but they are all included in the U.S. and state totals shown throughout the report. The standard errors of the estimates are shown in table E-34 available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2013009>.

SOURCE: International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), 2011.