

TIMSS 2011 results for Massachusetts

Science - Grade 8

- Public school students' average score was 567 at grade 8.
- Higher percentages of Massachusetts 8th-graders performed at or above each of the four TIMSS international benchmarks than the international medians. For example, 24 percent of 8th-graders in Massachusetts performed at or above the *Advanced* benchmark (625) compared to the international median of 4 percent at grade 8 (figure 12).

Table 43. Average science scores of 8th-grade students in Massachusetts public schools compared with other participating education systems: 2011

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

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.

- Male and female students in Massachusetts scored higher, on average, in science than the TIMSS scale average (table 44).
- White, Asian, and multiracial students' average scores were higher than the TIMSS scale average, while Black and Hispanic students' average scores were not measurably different from the TIMSS scale average (table 44).
- Students in public schools with 75 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch had average scores not measurably different from the TIMSS scale average. All other groups scored, on average, above the TIMSS scale average.

Table 44. Average science scores in grade 8 for selected student groups in public schools in Massachusetts: 2011

	Science Grade 8
Reporting groups	
TIMSS scale average	500
U.S. average	525 *
Massachusetts average	567 *
Sex	
Female	564 *
Male	570 *
Race/ethnicity	
White	587 *
Black	514
Hispanic	494
Asian	576 *
Multiracial	576 *
Percentage of public school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch	
Less than 10 percent	594 *
10 to 24.9 percent	589 *
25 to 49.9 percent	553 *
50 to 74.9 percent	550 *
75 percent or more	477

**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-40 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.