

Alaska Results on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress

Alaska's fourth-graders show progress in reading from 2013 to 2015 on the latest Nation's Report Card, *2015 Mathematics and Reading*. Alaska students had no other statistically significant changes for grade 8 reading or for grade 4 and grade 8 mathematics.

Nationally, public schools show declines among fourth- and eighth-grade students in mathematics, and among eighth-grade students in reading, on the 2015 assessments.

Alaska's grade 4 reading score increased by 3 points, from 209 to 213, but is not statistically significantly different from the 2003 score of 212, the first time the NAEP reading assessment was administered in Alaska. (Numbers do not sum up to total due to rounding.) Alaska's lowest grade 4 reading score was 208 in 2011.

Compared to the nation, Alaska has the following rankings:

- Alaska scores below the national average for grade 4 and grade 8 reading.
- Alaska scores below the national average for grade 4 mathematics.
- Alaska scores the same as the national average for grade 8 mathematics.

Following are some notable findings for NAEP 2015 and progress since 2003:

- Alaska's two largest racial/ethnic groups are white students (about 50%) and American Indian/Alaska Native students (about 25%). There are achievement level gaps between white students and all other racial/ethnic groups, but the largest gaps are between white students and American Indian/Alaska Native students.
- For grade 4 reading, white students score below the national average for white students in 2015 and show no growth in scores since 2003, compared to 5 points for the national average.
- For grade 8 reading, white students score above the national average in 2015 and outpace the national growth in scores since 2003 (8 points for Alaska white students, 3 points for the nation).
- For grade 4 mathematics, white students score the same as the national average in 2015 and slightly lag the nation in growth since 2003 (4 points for Alaska, 6 points for the nation).
- For grade 8 mathematics, white students score above the national average in 2015 and show the same growth in scores since 2003 as the nation (5 points each).

- American Indian/Alaska Native students in Alaska score below the national average for American Indian/Alaska Native students in all assessments in 2015 and show no growth in scores since 2003 for any of the NAEP assessments.
- Hispanic students in Alaska score above the national average for Hispanic students for grade 4 and grade 8 reading and grade 8 mathematics and the same as the national average for grade 4 math in 2015. Hispanic students show no growth for grade 4 NAEP reading and mathematics since 2003, but outpace the national growth in scores for Hispanics for grade 8 reading and mathematics.
- Black students in Alaska score the same as the national average for all four NAEP assessments in 2015 and show no growth in scores since 2003 for any of the NAEP assessments.
- Asian/Pacific Islander students in Alaska score below the national average for Asian/Pacific Islander students for all four NAEP assessments in 2015 and show no growth in scores since 2003 for any of the NAEP assessments.

Alaska continues to rank among the top ten states for largest percentages of English language learners.

- Fifteen percent of Alaska students are English language learners for grade 4. The national public average is 11 percent.
- Eleven percent of Alaska students are English language learners for grade 8. The national public average is six percent.
- American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander students in Alaska have higher percentages of English language learners than the national average for those groups.

For more information, contact the Alaska NAEP State Coordinator at jeanne.foy@alaska.gov or 907-465-8729 or go to <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/Assessments/naep.html> or <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>.